Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Discusses Ties With Chile in Interview

PY2906020891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0141 GMT 27 Jun 91

["Exclusive" interview with Fidel Castro, Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers president, by Marilu Velasco, reporter for the "On the Subject of..." program, from the Palace of the Revolution in Havana on 24 June—recorded]

[Text] [Velasco] Mr. President, many people wonder where and how Fidel Castro lives. Does he live with someone or alone? Does he live outside the city or downtown? How do you live?

[Castro] Let me tell you that I have always tried to keep my private life to myself, as any human being is entitled to do. I do not like publicity about that subject. I can tell you, however, that my office—which I will show you later—is what I call a kind of prison. I try to spend as little time as possible there. I do not live here. Much of the time I live on the street [Castro laughs], making the rounds. I do not sleep here. I live like all normal people. Furthermore, I do not live alone, but in good company.

[Velasco] Mr. President, but....

[Castro, interrupting] Is that enough for you or....

[Velasco, interrupting] Yes, that is enough....

[Castro, continuing] ...or do you want to know more?

[Velasco] But, I imagine....

[Castro, interrupting] I have never been asked about that.

[Velasco, laughing] Mr. President, this normal human being—not the leader, but the human being inside you—what is he afraid of?

[Castro] What am I afraid of? Well, we are afraid of many things, but basically we are afraid of not doing things right. What I mean is that we want to do the right thing and we are afraid of making mistakes. You may wonder if we are afraid of something else. If one has a philosophy, there are very few things that one is afraid of.

[Velasco] You are not afraid of death?

[Castro] I would say that the fear of death is instinctive; only the conscience, the convictions of a person can overrule this survival instinct. I believe everybody has a survival instinct to a greater or lesser degree. I also believe, however, that revolutionaries must forget it early in their careers. The important thing, as far as I am concerned, is that it is easy to stare death in the face when one is young and, strangely enough, not so easy when one gets older. Young people are always more daring.

Fortunately, I can say that I am as challenged by risk now as I was when I was young. I believe I have managed to somehow escape the sort of natural law that makes one love life more as one grows older.

[Velasco] Why do you think you have escaped that law?

[Castro] I believe it is because of my philosophy.

[Velasco] Tell me about it.

[Castro] I feel that it is a special achievement of men who do not expect any reward for their virtues or their accomplishments. They do not avoid doing things out of fear of punishment. I share that approach....

[Velasco, interrupting] What do you think about?

[Castro] Many things. My concept of the world is scientific and I do not believe human beings have any special privileges over other living beings. I believe that the beginning of life, man and animal, is quite clear, at least as far as I am concerned. I do not believe we have any special privileges although I would be pleased if that were so. I do not criticize anyone for their religious beliefs. I do not criticize anyone for believing in another world, even for believing in reward after death. I do not believe in such reward or punishment.

[Velasco] What do you remember with the deepest nostalgia from your trip to Chile?

[Castro] Everything.

[Velasco] And, in particular....

[Castro, interrupting] I remember everything with great nostalgia. It is very difficult for me to separate something specific. I remember visiting the mines and the mine workers, Antofagasta and Iquique. I visited the south. I remember my visit to Punta Arenas and Puerto Montt. Of course, I remember very clearly the meeting with Allende. I also remember the Chilean people welcoming me with great warmth. The way the Chilean people welcomed me in Chile was something unforgettable.

I also had contacts with the military. In many places I met with the military and I was asked to meet with them and explain things to them. They wanted to know things about Cuba, about Playa Giron, about the October crisis. And, surely there was a military parade headed by General Pinochet. The parade was to honor guests. It was Pinochet who led the military parade.

[Velasco] Mr. President, when General Pinochet assumed government in 1973, Chile severed relations with Cuba....

[Castro, interrupting] Immediately.

[Velasco] Immediately. Did you think that when newly-elected President Patricio Aylwin assumed office, relations between the two countries would be reestablished immediately?

[Castro] I was not too sure.

[Velasco] Why?

[Castro] Perhaps because the situation in Chile is something special. Chile is undergoing a transition process with special, long-standing characteristics. And we encounter double opposition: internal and external opposition to our relations. If you ask me from the conceptual point of view, I would say that it would have been very just to reestablish relations with Cuba then because we were very solidaristic toward Chile throughout that period, that period of struggle to reestablish a civilian government, to return to a normal and constitutional time. We have been very solidaristic toward the Chilean people. Thousands of Chileans have passed through Cuba. And, since the government that resulted from a coup d'etat severed relations, it would have been logical for a government resulting from elections to reestablish relations with Cuba. That has not been a matter of special concern for us, however, because you must understand, Marilu Velasco, that relations are not established by begging.

[Velasco] What is your opinion of President Patricio Aylwin?

[Castro] Of who?

[Velasco] Of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin.

[Castro] Ah! Of the current president. I have had the pleasure and satisfaction of greeting him personally on the occasion of the Brazilian president's inauguration. We were at the house of [former Brazilian President Jose] Sarney and all the guests had arrived. It is the custom for several chiefs of state to attend presidential inaugurations and it is also a custom to invite Cuba. That is something new. Of course, on several occasions we attended inaugurations.

I have a very good impression of President Aylwin. He is a friendly man, a pleasant personality, with a noble face. This is what I can tell you about my personal impression of him. He was very gentle and friendly with me. I could see no hostility in his face. I think, and this is my personal opinion, he is handling the situation very well, with great ability, especially during a period that I consider to be very difficult, a very special situation. That is the outlook I have from this distance.

[Velasco] Mr. President, you have just referred to Cuban assistance granted to Chile. It is no secret to anyone that Cuba supported Chilean leftist groups who fought—even with weapons—General Pinochet's government. It is also known that Cuba has no double standard in its international diplomatic relations; however....

[Castro, interrupting] How is that? That everyone knows what?

[Velasco] That everyone admits that Cuba has no double standard in its international relations. Over the past few months in Chile, however, armed groups from the extreme left that have claimed responsibility for the murder of several Carabineros—I am referring in particular to the autonomous groups of the center and to the Lautaro group—those groups claim they are still receiving support from the Cuban Government, even after President Patricio Aylwin's assumption of government. Is that true?

[Castro] Well, I must tell you something about our cooperation with Chile. We have asked for the cooperation of all those who asked us for cooperation in their struggle to reestablish a constitutional government in Chile, all those who asked us for cooperation in their struggle to overthrow Pinochet. That is known because we have said it. We have never denied it because that is our position. Thousands of exiles have passed through Chile and we have granted all sorts of cooperation to many organizations, whether of the left or the center. Of course, nowadays it is difficult to know what is the center or what is the left, or what position people or organizations belong to. But, as you well said, it is no secret. We even collaborated with those who participated in armed actions to overthrow Pinochet's government.

[Velasco] But today....

[Castro, interrupting] That means that we do not deny it. I spoke with Chilean visitors later and we explained our policy on Chile to them. We have given political support and support in all fields to the enemies of Pinochet. We can be accused of that. Of course, we have not played a leading role in any Chilean organization. All political and revolutionary organizations are very zealous and touchy about their independence. We have never tried to play a leading role or to exert a hegemonic influence in our relations with revolutionary movements all over the world. If our relations with many people throughout the world are good, it is because we respect them. Our cooperation does not imply management or a leading role in the activities of such movements or groups.

Moreover, we have followed the process very closely over the past few years. I must say we have not done so in defense of Cuba, but in honor of the truth, as I have explained to other people. Many people, especially those of the left, had doubts about what to do, whether or not to register to vote. I remember the opinion I gave all the Chileans I met: It would be a mistake not to register. Similar situations—whether or not to participate in a plebiscite—have occurred. I remember that all the Chileans I met asked me for an opinion. Among them were outstanding political leaders and important influential people, but they were surely of the left. I told them it would be a mistake not to participate in the plebiscite. That is the opinion I gave them.

Then, during the elections, there were many other doubts—whether or not to participate in the elections. Without any hesitation, I told all those who talked to me, especially those of the left, that it would be an error not to participate in the elections. I also said the same thing to revolutionaries when they respectfully asked me for an

opinion about such things. I told them: Well, it is time to end the terror, the tyranny in the country. If the situation cannot be changed using weapons and there is a possibility of changing it by voting, then it is correct to use that means to end the terror prevailing in the country. That is logical. The people cannot be told to wait indefinitely or forever until tyranny is defeated. If Pinochet's government could be overthrown using weapons, we would have liked to see the overthrow by weapons. I have no doubt that if Pinochet's government could not be defeated by weapons, because no one could carry out a short-term overthrow, the correct thing to do was to exploit all other possible means to change the situation in the country even though it would not imply Pinochet's overthrow, but a lengthy and complex process, as is the process in Chile today. Our political stand on that has been very clear and logical.

When I said farewell to the Chilean exiles—and many are still here—after the elections, I told them about those ideas. And I think something has been published about it. I told them it was not a revolution, but an important step to change the situation, to free the country of Pinochet's regime.

As I understand it, our position has been very clear. We have seen a process we consider positive. That process begins when the elections end with an opposition victory—given that they were not parties of the left or of the Popular Unity Party, which is similar to Allende's party. I think it is a positive process in the country. For that reason, our position in relation to the current government must be different from the position we had in relation to Pinochet; we are guided by a principle.

All the people we know in Chile, all the people of the left, all the revolutionaries, and all those who fought against Pinochet have great merit because they served prison terms and many died. When you analyze the list of missing people, you will see that many of the missing people are those who fought against Pinochet. I can tell you that I do not deny my affection and admiration for those who fought and died for change in Chile.

But, our policy has been very clear. Everyone is aware of it. All our friends—not only those who are in the opposition, but those in the government as well—know it because we have told them about our position, because our cooperation with any organization for violent or military actions ended the moment the government was changed in Chile.

[Velasco] That means that....

[Castro, interrupting] Our cooperation has truly ended. And everyone understands that. We have nothing to hide because everyone understands that our policy was correct, that it was a policy of principle. And although we should have joined in the Latin American and international satisfaction over the change that took place in Chile, we thought our essential political task was to implement a policy different from that which we had in relation to Pinochet's government. We have strictly adhered to that principle, regardless of what other people may say. I am not aware that any group—although you have told me about it, and I respect your opinion very much, and other people have also said it—I am not aware that any group in Chile has said that we are still supporting violent actions in the country's current situation. I say so because our policy was very carefully and strictly implemented at the very moment when the government was changed.

[Velasco] Mr. President, starting from the basis that there are some groups saying the contrary, what would you say to those groups using violence in Chile and that say Cuba is still supporting them....

[Castro, interrupting] The truth is that I have no control over the groups. I have already explained our position. The correct thing for me to do is to outline our position and our political direction. But I can by no means tell people what to do. I have my opinion and I have stated it. But it is not up to me and I have never played the role of telling others what to do because that would mean meddling in a country's domestic affairs. Our policy is that of full respect for the current process in Chile; thus, I cannot be the one to tell people what to do. That is almost like assuming an opportunistic position because in doing so, we would be looking for an advantage.

I have already told you my opinion of the process and why we have adopted the policy. I do not know how the important step taken so far, the constructive process will continue in the future. What has taken place in Chile is not a revolution. Anyone can tell you that. There has been no important economic change in Chile because the same laws are in effect and the essential economic principles are the same. But, the country now has a civilian government. The country has taken an important step forward and I think that positive step forward must be received with respect by all countries. That is what we have done. That has been our policy.

I do not know what will happen in the future. I do not know what the future will be like. I do know, however, that the government will still have to deal with a situation in which it does not have complete control of all government sources. It will have to deal with a difficult and complex situation. That is why I have said that Aylwin has handled the situation with intelligence and ability. Without question, it is easy to know who is doing things in that situation because some of the things that are occurring are very rare and they unquestionably contribute to complicating the current opening process in Chile. I can say that objectively....

[Velasco, interrupting] But who is doing those things?

[Castro] No one knows. I have seen that public opinion has unanimously condemned some of those events. Of course, those who do not want a continuation of the current process will continue carrying out such action; they are the people who do not want a continuation of the process toward total normalization of the situation. I cannot, however, tell you who is carrying out such

action. What I can tell you is that we have absolutely nothing to do with those actions.

[Velasco] Mr. President, leaving aside the Chilean issue, the world is now witnessing worldwide change—the Berlin wall has been torn down and elections were held in the Soviet Union, while here in Cuba, there have been no elections for 32 years—since the revolution. Just as elections were held in Chile to elect President Aylwin or in France to elect Francois Mitterrand, why aren't elections held in Cuba to elect you? Don't you think that you can thus be called a dictator?

[Castro] Marilu, who told you no elections have been held in Cuba for 32 years?

[Velasco] Well, I mean presidential elections as in other countries.

[Castro] Not everything is the same in the electoral competitions taking place in the West. Allow me to tell you that there are many ways to elect government leaders in the world. And, we do have an electoral system. The fact that the Cuban electoral system is ignored does not mean elections are not held in Cuba or that the electoral system is not correct. Since establishing the Constitution and our electoral system, elections have been held in our country every two and a half years. Besides, the party does not choose the candidates in our country. The candidates are chosen by electoral districts. There are over 10,000 of them in the country. Here the people, not the parties, propose the candidates. People gathered in an assembly can elect their candidates. There can be no more than eight nor less than two candidates. A candidate must obtain more than 50 percent of the votes in order to be elected. If not, a second round of voting must take place. Municipal and provincial leaders are elected in this way. They again elect National Assembly members.

That is our system of elections, and in my judgment, a much more democratic system that allows the people to participate more effectively than in the traditional systems you have mentioned.

[Velasco] And are you elected by the National Assembly?

[Castro] I am elected by the National Assembly. The National Assembly elects a State Council. Why do you think the electoral system of any other European country is more democratic than ours? Why would the Japanese system be more democratic? Ours is far more democratic than countries such as Italy, England, Sweden, the Netherlands, or Belgium.

[Velasco] Mr. President, here, however, there is one single party.

[Castro] Yes, but it is not the party that chooses candidates. The people themselves propose the names of district delegates and they are the sources of power. This system is often criticized, however. The word dictator is often used. I do not consider myself a dictator. Bolivar was often given the name and functions of a dictator. That title has often been used in Peru and Colombia under very difficult circumstances, but I have never been called a dictator.

When I began as a revolutionary, I founded a movement. I had an organization. We had one before our victory and we had it all during our struggle. We have had an organization all through the past years. As I explained to you earlier, I have fewer powers than any other Latin American president. We have a National Assembly, a Council of State, and a party with a collective board. I cannot name ambassadors, for example. I cannot name an ambassador. I think the president of your country can name ambassadors. Perhaps he cannot make some changes in some circles and that is understandable, but he can name ambassadors and ministers. I cannot name ministers in this country, because ministers are named by the Council of State. I cannot say, however, that I have no influence. I think I have great moral authority, but not legal authority. Power in our country is distributed among several people. Many people participate in the government. Those people have some power in our country. Thus, I consider myself a man with moral authority before the party and the state. I can assure you with no exaggeration that I do not participate in the election of any other official, whether minister or ambassador. I think the Council of State president has fewer personal powers. Of course, that does not square with my reputation as a dictator—it does not square with the traditional image I have of a dictator.

[Velasco] Mr. President, if there is no dictatorship here and there is freedom of expression and of thought, why do we often hear about Cubans escaping to Miami in rafts?

[Castro] I guess you are talking about Cubans who leave the country. Well, Cubans who migrate. Only those who are persecuted try to escape, those who fear that something may happen to them. Those who decide to leave the country, however, are migrating. Now, why do they leave in dinghies? Because the United States does not grant them visas. We allow anyone to leave the country with their families. That has always been the policy of the revolution and now, more than ever, we are reaffirming it because we say the task of leading socialism is a voluntary task of free men.

If someone chooses another system or does not accept the sacrifices that our Constitution calls for or the sacrifices caused by the blockade or the sacrifices caused by catastrophes that are taking place in the socialist sector, then we allow them to leave the country. They go to the U.S. Interests Office, which refuses to grant them visas. If they go in a dinghy, however, they are received with applause and the fact is publicized. The truth is very different. There can be exceptions, as there can be anywhere in the world, even in the United States. From what I have heard, there are special measures to prevent anyone from taking the most important secrets, in the nuclear or other fields, out of the country. All countries have exceptional measures, but we do not have a single measure against migration, not a minimum of restrictions such as those adopted by other

countries. There is a broad principle authorizing anyone to leave [illegible] country. That is our policy. If they want to go to Europe, to Chile—well, would you receive all those willing to reside in Chile? Well, we will authorize them.

[Velasco] Mr. President, before concluding our chat, what would you say to your admirers? When you visited Chile, you left many followers and many adversaries as well. What would you tell them....

[Castro, interrupting] My adversaries were already there. Others arrived later. Some are those who are sorry for having been on the left and now they want pardons. There are people who change their names, etc. There are all types of people in this world and many are just opportunists. That is something that does not square with a revolutionary's way of thinking.

[Velasco] What would you say to your admirers and to your adversaries in Chile?

[Castro] To my admirers—that I admire them because it is admirable to have admirers in the very difficult times of a revolution confronting very strong powers, such as economic power and the communications media. I admire my admirers for their courage and their integrity. I respect those who think differently because they have their own ideologies. Capitalists who believe in capitalism, in a free market, and in the market economy—I respect them because I respect their ideas, as I respect all religious beliefs. What I despise are the opportunists, those who change their flag, their ideas, and their principles. That is what I can say.

[Velasco] Very well, Mr. President. I thank you for the opportunity you have given us to talk with you on our Television Nacional program "On the Subject of...."

[Castro] I also want to thank you. I can assure you that I have answered all your questions with pleasure and especially, with absolute sincerity.

Castro Meets With Tanzania's Nyerere

FL2806115691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Julius Nyerere, former president of the United Republic of Tanzania and president of the South Commission. During the meeting the leaders discussed current international affairs and agreed on the importance of Third World countries efforts toward peace, development, and independence.

Four-Member Team To Observe Caricom Summit

FL2906134091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2055 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, June 28, CANA—Cuba's vice-minister for foreign affairs, Ramon Sanchez-Parodi, on Friday said Havana would welcome a visit by the West Indian Commission, established to formulate proposals for advancing the regional integration movement.

"We believe it would be very useful to discuss precisely that in the Caribbean we are all together, English and non-English speaking people....and what the relations between Caribbean nations should be....," Sanchez-Parodi told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

The West Indian Commission, chaired by former Commonwealth secretary general, Sir Shridath Ramphal has been visiting Caribbean countries and expatriate communities abroad, documenting the views of the people on the future direction of the 13-member Caribbean Community.

Sanchez-Parodi said that should the commission decide to visit Cuba, Havana would allow the views of all its nationals to be heard.

"They would meet with everyone, it doesn't necessarily mean to meet with one part of the population, they can meet with anyone."

Sanchez-Parodi who is here at the head of a four-member Cuban observer team to next week's Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] heads of government semmit, said that he would be taking such a request to the leaders if given the opportunity.

"We have already been in touch with Caricom and directly with the members of the commission about that possibility," he said.

Cuba is seeking to improve its relations with the community, but while individual governments have been welcoming, Caricom has so far given Havana a cold shoulder mainly because of its unwillingness to recognise the Grenada Government.

Caricom in-coming chairman, host Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds told CANA: "The issue is very simple in relation to Cuba. We would not be in a position to normalise relations with Cuba until Cuba is prepared to accept the Grenada Government.

"There are diplomatic initiatives on-going and Cuba has in fact indicated that they accept that position and all we want now is actual confirmation that that is so."

Sanchez-Parodi said that diplomatic relations existed between Havana and St. George's, "although they have not been active relations."

"In this sense there are issues on the part of Grenada and also on the part of Cuba which do not create a proper climate for these relations to become normal, but I think that we both can work towards....improving relations," he said.

Vietnam's Do Muoi Meets With Yolanda Ferrer

FL2906012191 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2306 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Do Muoi, the new secretary general of the Communist Party of Vietnam, has met today in Hanoi with Yolanda Ferrer, the head of the Cuban delegation to the seventh congress of that organization, which ended on 27 June. The meeting, which lasted one and a half hours, was held in the climate of profound friendship that marks the ties between our two countries.

Do Muoi stressed: You are an extraordinarily strong bastion of socialism in Latin America, as we are in Asia. The top Vietnamese leader noted: We are like twin brothers. He added that the ties between the two parties and peoples involve very pure principles, and Vietnam has great respect for this relationship. In expressing his admiration for Cuba's president, Do Muoi stated: We know that Fidel Castro is tireless and devotes innumerable hours to his work.

Zimbabwe Education Minister Praises Assistance

FL2806185991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Zimbabwe's Education Minister David Karamanzira arrived in Cuba early today to attend the graduation of the first group of university students from Zimbabwe studying on the Isle of Youth. Karamanzira was greeted at the Boyeros airport by Minister of Education Luis Ignacio Gomez Gutierrez.

Mr. Karamanzira explained the efforts of the Zimbabwean Government to improve education and thanked Cuba for its support and aid toward this goal.

[Begin recording] [Karamanzira, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] Cuba has been very generous to commit itself to educate 1,400 teachers in addition to students of medicine, agriculture, and other subjects. We have students in other countries also, but not as many as in Cuba.

[Reporter] Do you believe that Cuba has the ability to train these students?

[Karamanzira] Yes, yes, yes, that is why we send our students to Cuba. We are planning to send 200 more. They are learning Spanish in Zimbabwe right now. There are 10 Cuban teachers conducting Spanish courses in our country, getting them ready to come to Cuba to study in this same program. [end recording]

Exchange Agreement Signed With Poland

FL2806142291 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Cuba and Poland have signed a cooperation and exchange agreement on science, education, and culture. Ryszard Korczewski, director of the cultural and scientific cooperation department of the Polish Foreign Affairs Ministry, and Martin Mora, director of the Press, Information, and Culture Directorate of the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry [Minrex] [name and title as heard], signed the document at Minrex headquarters. The accord endorses continuing joint scientific research and the exchange of specialists and cultural delegations.

Embassy Reopens in Equatorial Guinea

FL2906185891 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1809 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Cuba has reopened its embassy in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. The new Cuban ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Ramon Alonso Medina, presented his credentials to President Teodoro Obiang Nguema at the 3 October Palace in Malabo City. The 53-year-old Alonso has a degree in law and since 1982 has occupied the position of general coordinator of the Central African Department of the Ministry of Foreign Relations. In the past, he was Cuba's ambassador to the Republic of Zambia.

Activist Restano Reportedly Arrested in Havana

PA0107012591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2042 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Havana, 30 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Activist Indamiro Restano, a member of the not legally registered Cuban Human Rights Committee, was arrested today by Havana police, his wife Marcela Sanchez reported.

Sanchez told NOTIMEX that 11 policemen arrived at Restano's home today with a search-and-arrest warrant for the activist. Restano is president of the unregistered "Harmony Movement" [Moviemiento Harmonia].

Sanchez, who is the sister of Cuban Human Rights Committee leader Elizardo Sanchez, who was recently released from jail, said that the police gave no reason for Restano's arrest and that the police summoned her to appear at Villamarista Prison, outside Havana, on 1 July.

Sanchez said that the security forces searched the home and the place where the "Harmony Movement" meets, and took away documents.

Restano is one of Havana's best-known activists due to his denunciations before foreign embassies and international wire services on "the country's situation" and "human rights violations."

Fixed Resources, Costs Curbs Summer Festivals

FL2806151691 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1111 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Eduardo Canciano, a member of the Executive Committee of the People's Government Provincial Assembly, has informed us that this summer's traditional folk festivals that are celebrated during the July holidays and the first three weekends of August in Havana City will be held on a territorial scale. The

carnival will not have a parade with floats, bleachers, and booths all over El Malecon, but there will be festivities in all municipalities with recorded music, live bands, and orchestras.

This is the result of some resource shortages plus the expenses of this kind of event: costumes, food, tires, fuel, and other items. Canciano vouched that plentiful distribution of beer and rum is guaranteed in those places as well as snacks that will be distributed by food service enterprises.

During these popular summer celebrations, the services of 82 theaters, numerous film premiers, 25 video halls, and gymnasium pools will be available for public use.

Cuban Writers Defend Their Stance

AU2806104291 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 26 Jun 91 p 5

["c"-signed report: "Roots of the Crisis"]

[Text] The signatories of the Letter of Cuban Writers and Intellectuals emphatically rejected an official statement of the daily GRANMA and the document of the National Union of Writers and Artists (UNEAC), in which, without any evidence, they were described as traitors and agents of the American CIA. The writers Manuel Diaz Martinez, Jorge Pomar Montalvo, Victor Manuel Serpa, and Roberto Luque Escalona submitted to the CTK [Czechoslovak News] agency open letters to the Cuban Government, in which they rejected all false accusations and stressed that the aim of the letter was to stop the crisis and to prevent further violent solutions to the tense situation in Cuba.

Jorge Pomar Montalvo, who still is a member of the UNEAC and who is also a member of the Communist Party of Cuba, writes in his letter: "We have not cast doubts on the foundations of the system in our five points. We only asked for direct elections to parliament, freedom of travel, a revival of the free sale of agricultural products, UN assistance in the supply of medical drugs, and the release of political prisoners from custody. Can this be called a dirty betrayal?"

In the open letter he also touches upon the subject of the crisis in the Cuban economy, and emphasizes that the cause is neither the trade embargo of the United States, nor the collapse of socialism in Europe, or problems in the USSR. "For once, let us leave Czechoslovakia, the USSR, and other countries in peace. It is time to find the courage and look at the real cause of the problem, which is the contradiction between production potential and production relations. Our crisis is a consequence of a bad economic policy and even worse resource and raw material management," Jorge Pomar Montalvo states.

Advertising, Propaganda Association Founded

PA2806192691 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The Advertising and Propaganda Association of Cuba was founded on 25 June in Havana, as part of the Union of Cuban Journalists.

Some of the main objectives of this organization are to contribute in offering the most adequate image of Cuba abroad within the complex world of social communication, and to reinforce the social recognition of the two professions.

In a statement issued during the constitution ceremony, the members of the new association were urged to support and identify with the policy of the party and government of Cuba.

Guadalajara City Officials Begin Visit

FL2906011091 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Guadalajara Mayor Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra arrived today in Havana at the head of a delegation from that Mexican city. The group, which is made up of officials from the municipal council of the capital city of Jalisco State, was invited by the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the Peoples [ICAP] and the Havana Provincial Assembly of the People's Government [APPP]. The Mexican officials were met at Jose Marti International Airport by Manuel Pineiro, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and ICAP and APPP leaders. Guadalajara will host the first summit of heads of state from Central America, Spain, and Portugal on 18 and 19 July, known as Ibero-America I.

[Begin Covarrubias recording] Because of its tradition and history, and the hospitality of its people, Guadalajara was surely considered by the Ibero-American heads of state to be chosen for this event. In addition, there are its beauty, historic significance, climate, and scenery. Of course, we are very happy that Guadalajara, the capital of Jalisco State, has been chosen for this event. [end recording]

The delegation from Guadalajara will visit places of interest in Havana Province and Havana and will return to Mexico on 1 July.

* Pushcarts Replace Garbage Trucks in Some Areas

91P40326A Havana TRIBUNA DE LA HABANA in Spanish 11 Apr 91 p 4

[Excerpt] Residential trash collection using manpower [traccion humana] is not new, but its reintroduction into the city is a worthwhile contribution toward saving fuel and extending the useful life of garbage trucks.

For several weeks, men with pushcarts have been making rounds in the Pueblo Nuevo district of Centro Havana.

With this measure, the management of Community Services in that area provides daily service to more than 500 homes in a 13-block zone using the conventional method of placing a can at the front entrance to the house. The men begin their rounds at 0400 using carts which hold eight medium-sized barrels, and they carry the trash to several corners along Lindero street, between Manglar and Santo Tomas, where the containers are now placed. In this way, the garbage trucks which previously made pickups along these cross streets now only drive along this street.

This practice has yielded good results, explained Rufino Ojeda, municipal director of Community Services. As early as the 15th of this month, service will be expanded to three other areas but we want to completely cover Pueblo Nuevo. To do this we need 18 workers. [no quotation marks as published]

Many people—including youths—have become interested in this new employment since the job depends entirely on the individual and the salary is attractive: 186 pesos per month.

This saves us some 25 liters of fuel per day, says Ojeda, but we also save manhours for the collection teams and increase availability.

Centro Habana is experimenting with the redistribution of containers on secondary streets in the Cayo Hueso area so as to cover only 80 blocks instead of the current 250 blocks; the difference with this system is that it does not require an increase in the number of employees.

Before being implemented throughout Cayo Hueso, this method will be discussed with the residents since the containers will have to be located about 130 meters, at most, from the houses.

Sanitation activities also involved the use of manpower. Men with carts pick up rubbish and other waste material and carry it to three or four locations in Dragones and Colon. Thus, the trucks designated for this service pick up only at those locations, make fewer trips, and have time left to provide service to residences. [passage omitted]

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Focus on Caricom Single Market, Economy

FL2906115891 Bridgetown CANA in English 1742 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, June 28, CANA—Trade, monetary, and other issues related to a Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market] single market were under focus, behind closed doors, in preparation for the 12th heads of government meeting opening here Monday.

The common market council, into a third day of a preparatory meeting Thursday, discussed a report of an officials and experts group convened last year on the proposed single market and economy.

Caricom heads of government meeting last year in Grenada agreed to work for the establishment of a single market and economy for the region by July 4, 1993, and to take measures to remove all remaining barriers to trade by July 1991.

The report, obtained by the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA), deals with the existing problems, and offers suggestions in support of the single market and single economy.

Licensing regimes impede intra-regional trade "since as long as the good appears on the list, there is the possibility that the imports may be subject to restrictions if only as a result of administrative delays," the report said.

Member states should amend their laws to limit import licensing for common market goods "only in special circumstances authorised or mandated under the provisions of the annex to the treaty," it said.

The list of non-common market goods subject to licensing regimes should be maintained in a list separate from the one of common market goods similarly subject to licensing, the report said. It also recommends an export licensing policy study.

The report identified indirect taxes, as another impediment to trade within the community, and observes that Trinidad and Tobago perceives the application of stamp duty by Belize and St. Kitts and Nevis as contrary to the common market rules on revenue duties and internal taxation.

"It will be recalled that council has stressed that the application of stamp duties and other revenue charges must not discriminate between locally-produced goods and like imports of common market origin," the report said.

It said systems in which two different levels of tax are imposed for locally produced goods and for imports of common market origin should be deemed discriminatory.

"Where a tax on the local good is not or cannot be collected, then such tax should not be applied to imports of common market origin," the report said, adding that a review of indirect taxes on imports of common market origin should be undertaken.

The report also recommended that the council agree that the Caricom secretariat convene a meeting of farmers' organisations, policy makers, and traders to discuss free trade in relation to the agricultural sector. The council was also urged to support amendment of protection arrangments under the Caricom treaty to allow that the process of investigation of complaints about protection procedures brought by traders or member-states be promply investigated instead of at the annual review.

The council will also review the importation of primary agricultural goods under aid arrangements. It urged that such aid be integrated with the development policies of the member-state concerned or the region and that where goods supplied under aid arrangements are sold, "they should be sold at a price which does not disrupt intra-regional trade." A system being devised by the central banks in the region for payment for intra-regional trade should provide support for such trade in the shortest possible time, the report added.

The report warned that growth in intra-regional trade can be restricted by a variety of circumstances, such as the absence or inadequate credit and insurance facilities for exporters and the inability of manufacturers to supply goods on a consistent basis.

The difficulties encountered by manufacturers in marketing their goods were also highlighted among the proposals. The council was urged to refer these matters to the Caricom Export Development Council for examination.

Prime Minister Simmonds on Regional Unity

FL0107120291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1955 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, June 29, CANA—St. Kitts and Nevis prime minister, Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, says the Caribbean should try to avoid "petty rivalries" and "undue haste" in the preparations for a political union involving small states.

"I believe we should seek to lift our concerns for political unity above the petty rivalries of inter- and intra-regional political issues, yet at the same time be careful to avoid undue haste, so that we prevent ourselves from approaching pitfalls unseen, unwary, and perhaps unprepared," he said.

Dr. Simmonds made the comment as he prepared to host the 12th Caribbean Community heads of government summit, from Monday. His special report, published in the July issue of CANABUSINESS, follows:

"The hosting of an eminent meeting such as the Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] heads of government conference is at once daunting and challenging for the government and people of St. Kitts and Nevis. We are, however, confident that our legendary hospitality, generosity, and preparedness will help to make this one of the most outstanding and successful Caricom heads of government meetings.

"This year's meeting is convening against the backdrop of a number of striking world events that will continue to shape the future of the world and the Caribbean's role in its development. We are being forced to consider the salience and existence of West Indian unity in light of the democratisation of Eastern Europe, the development of a single European market, and the creation of trading blocs in North America and the Pacific Rim.

"As regional heads of government, we have to weigh these developments against their possible effects on the region as a less developed grouping which depends on the North Atlantic countries for much economic support. At the same time we continue to wrestle with the issue of West Indian identity, and the means for developing and maintaining this in the face of a changing global landscape.

"At the heart of all of this is the question of regional integration. I personally think that we need to appreciate and to accept the fact that the Caribbean integration movement has come a long way, despite the many criticisms levelled against it. As island nations, separated by bodies of water, we face problems that make it a little more difficult for us than countries occupying a single land mass, but we have continued to seek ways of overcoming these barriers.

"The degree and level of trading within Caricom is an example of how we are moving forward in the integration movement. Regional trade statistics bear this out. But I genuinely believe that we are at the point now where we have to move from merely addressing the integration movement itself, from just feeding upon our own insular interests, to helping the integration movement to find its place outside of the Caribbean and within the world economic system.

"We have got to select our areas of expertise, zero in on them, and be the best in providing services and products in whatever areas we find our niche. I believe we should seek to lift our concerns for political unity above the petty rivalries of inter-and intra- regional political issues, yet at the same time be careful to avoid undue haste, so that we prevent ourselves from approaching pitfalls unseen, unwary, and perhaps unprepared.

"It is only by working together as a region that we can protect our individual interests. At this time when the importance of regional groupings is being constantly highlighted, micro-states such as our federation must continue to be supportive of the integration process.

"We in St. Kitts and Nevis will keep on strengthening the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and Caricom, but our collective voices must be heard on international issues. The time for fragementation and dissensions is way behind us. Our only way forward is as a cohesive whole, prepared to take on the world political and economic giants, and to demand that our concern and interests be given the priority they deserve.

"Let me close by reiterating that St. Kitts and Nevis' hosting of this conference is a vivid example of our full involvement in regional integration, and a fine opportunity to sensitize our nationals and all West Indians to the importance of Caricom as a conduit through which we can face the challenges of the rest of this decade and the new century ahead of us."

Deputy British High Commissioner Assumes Duties

FL2906125491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1900 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, June 28, CANA—New deputy British high commissioner, Johnathan Noakes, arrives in Barbados this weekend to assume duty, the high commission here reported Friday. He succeeds George Edmonds-Brown, whose posting ended last March. Noakes, 47, will be accredited to Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda. His last posting was in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Dominica

Charles 'Looking Forward' to Talks With Perez

FL2906125291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1818 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, June 28, CANA—Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles leaves here Monday to attend the next Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market] heads of government summit in Basseterre, St. Kitts. Miss Charles told CANA that during the meeting she would "like to hear more about the CET (Common External Tariff) and make sure that we get a bureau of standards so that we can be satisfied that the goods we produce in these countries are of such a standard that people want to buy them—not just be forced to buy them." Dominica introduced the CET on June 1, the tariff is to protect Caricom products against imported goods.

Miss Charles said she was looking forward to talks with Venezuela President Carlos Andres Perez on a trade agreement he wants to discuss with Caribbean leaders. The Venezuelan leader is expected in St. Kitts ahead of the summit.

Budget Passage Assured Despite Walkout

FL2806021191 Bridgetown CANA in English 2108 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, June 27, CANA—The Eugenia Charles government affirmed Thursday that it would use its slender parliamentary majority to ensure passage of the 1991-92 budget, despite an opposition walkout Wednesday.

Opposition leader Edison James led the walkout by 10 United Workers Party [UWP] and Dominica Labour Party [DLP] parliamentarians after they made their contributions to the budget debate which began Tuesday morning.

James accused the 11-member Charles administration of being undemocratic in refusing to allow opposition members more time to study the budget. He also wants the time allowed for their contribution to the debate increased from the current one hour for the leader, and 20 minutes for opposition members of Parliament. James said the opposition was not allowed the opportunity to adequately research the proposals "and to make the kind of contribution that is desirable."

"The budget meeting is the most important meeting in the parliamentary calendar, and to short-change the opposition would be to short-change the country and undermine the whole process of parliamentary democracy," James told the Caribbean News Agency.

External Affairs Minister Brian Alleyne said that the opposition walkout is "a little unfortunate for the democratic process," but the government is not uncomfortable with the action taken by James' UWP and the DLP of Michael Douglas.

"The government is fully upholding the democratic process, and the opposition has the full opportunity to be there, and they have decided not to take advantage of that opportunity. So they're depriving themselves of what is legitimately their right," Alleyne told CANA.

"They're certainly not affecting the government in any way—on the contrary, what they're doing is weakening their position," he said.

The debate was expected to be wrapped up on Thursday.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer on Relations With Haiti, Deportations

FL2706184191 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1740 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has called for urgent talks with Haitian authorities, since relations between the two nations are at a standstill. Balaguer made this call while responding to reporters' questions on the Haitian deportation issue. Balaguer said that Haitian authorities contacted international organizations to lodge their complaints instead of speaking to the Dominican Government. The Haitian Government refused to speak with Dominican authorities.

Balaguer insisted on the need for holding talks between the two nations. Balaguer also spoke about relations with the International Monetary Fund and said that the governor of the Central Bank is in Washington and will not be fully informed on the subject until his return later today. On the Haitian subject, Balaguer said the following:

[Begin Balaguer recording] From the start, the Haitian authorities refused to talk. They sent a message through the Dominican Embassy in Port-au-Prince in which they expressed that the measures taken by the Dominican authorities were inadmissible. That closed the door for talks. If they start by rejecting the right of the Dominican people, the right of the Dominican Government to

control foreign immigration, they are rejecting our sovereignty. That is what is really inadmissible. That is why relations between both countries are at a impasse. [end recording]

Consul's Detention Protested

FL2806140291 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1237 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] The situation of Dominicans living in Haiti continues to get worse and some have even been confronted on the streets. Many of the Dominicans are hurrying to buy airplane tickets because they fear being assaulted if they return to the Dominican Republic by land.

Yesterday, the Dominican consul in Port-au-Prince, (Remberto Pichardo) was detained, although it has been reported that he was later set free.

The Dominican Foreign Ministry has sent a protest note to the Haitian Government and suggested that acts of this nature not be repeated.

Dominican-Haitian relations have cooled in the last few days because of the repatriation of illegal Haitians that reside in our country.

Over 100 Detained

FL2806132791 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] National district police officers and Immigrations Directorate inspectors have detained more than 100 Haitians that lived in the neighborhood known as Little Haiti. The authorities also dismantled stalls and shacks that the Haitians had built.

Immigrations Deputy Director Alfredo Molina personally directed the operation that involved searches of houses and apartments for illegal Haitians. He indicated that during the operation the authorities also arrested Haitians involved in prostitution.

The operation was carried out on the streets in Monte Itehaba, Altagracia, Bonito Gonzalez, Hermanos Gorbon, and other areas.

The Haitians that showed legal documents were set free. All of those who were detained were taken to the Southern Center for Agricultural Development in San Cristobal, from where they will be repatriated.

Total Repatriated Reaches 386

FL2806121991 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Another group of Haitian nationals who were living illegally in the country have been repatriated. This time, 136 were repatriated, raising to 386 the number of illegals sent back to their home country. It has been revealed that more than half of those repatriated turned themselves in voluntarily to the Southern Center for Agricultural Development in San Cristobal. The Haitians were transported in two buses to Mal Paso where they were received by Haitian officials. They were accompanied by Labor Deputy Secretary Tomas Bobadilla and Romalo de la Cruz, from the Immigrations Directorate General Office for Haitian Affairs.

Politicians Face Arrest for Supporting Strike

FL0107140591 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The main leaders of the leftist political organizations that have shown open support for the general strike called by the Collective of Peoples' Orgizations and the General Federation of Workers for 3 and 4 July may be arrested, according to a plan drawn up by the investigative services of the armed forces, the police, and the government. It has been learned that since last week the Armed Forces security services and the government have been following very closely the activities of the political leaders of the revolutionary parties which have expressed their support for the strike called for 3 and 4 July.

Last night, the Cadena de Noticias was informed that members of the Dominican Workers Party, the Anti-Imperialist Patriotic Union, the Dominican People's Movement, and the Dominican Communist Party [PCD] have been arrested in several towns in the interior. We also learned that on the night of 28 June, secret services agents detained a PCD high leader as he was driving a cream-colored Lada near the colonial section of Santo Domingo.

Haiti

Aristide Donates June Paycheck to Repatriates

FL2806231991 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has decided to donate his June paycheck to the repatriated Haitians. He handed it over on 27 June and took the opportunity to meet with a group of Haitians who were deported from the Dominican Republic at the beginning of the week. He said his government commits itself to helping, training, and supervising these compatriots to allow them to get jobs, find accommodations, and live more or less normally here in Haiti.

Bazin Offers Dominican Crisis Negotiation Plan

FL2906011791 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] The Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] leader Marc Bazin emerged from a long silence to express his opinion on the deportation of Haitian braceros [cane cutters]. Bazin suggests a 12-point plan to the government, including the creation of accommodation and reintegration funds for repatriated

Haitians, sponsored by a national solidarity loan. The following is a report by Rotchil.

[Begin recording] [Rotchil] This interview is in fact the first one from the MIDH leader regarding Aristide government policy. Marc Bazin explains that he had hoped to abstain from political comment until the end of the grace period provided by the Constitution for making reforms in public administration, but that the current situation justifies an exception. Marc Bazin believes that the deportation of Haitians represents a national drama that injures our dignity as Haitian citizens, and calls for immediate solidarity with the victims.

The head of MIDH proposes a 12-point plan for treatment of the crisis. Marc Bazin asks the government not to succumb to provocation; and to act with caution and steadiness.

[Bazin] Our first duty, our sole duty, is to receive our compatriots, all of our compatriots, regardless of number. Because the basis of the conflict lies in the mistreatment of Haitians, there is neither logic nor generosity in trying, against the will of the Dominican authorities, to impose arrangements for their continuation in that territory. The government must now focus itself so it can define a clear, coherent, and resolute political line. In particular, the government must now communicate what it wants, what method it intends to use to get what it wants, and what its limit is with the Dominican authorities. The government must also adopt a tone for its policy. Good feelings, insults, protests, and diplomatic tactlessness cannot be mistaken for policy. Once policy is decided upon in common agreement with the Haitian Armed Forces, the government must then present it to the National Assembly, the voice of national sovereignty, in order to explain the policy, and acquire approval.

Furthermore, for lack of a precedent, no demand, regardless of how imperious, is inconceivable. The government has the right to demand, and must demand, from the Dominican Republic that it quickly produce the repatriation plan for Haitians, the executive calendar, the ages of the concerned people, the dates, places, and times of their return to Haiti.

The current crisis marks a new level in the chronic deterioration of relations between the two countries. Perhaps it will be a long crisis. What we do or do not do depends on its evolution. What is certain, in any case, is that we must not accept under any pretext the threat to remain silent, or the threat of selective expulsion of our compatriots, to have these constantly hanging over our head like the sword of Damocles. If we assume a defensive position, we will be condemned no matter what happens; we will forbid ourselves, from then on, any new complaints, for fear of reprisals on one hand, and for fear, on the other, of accusations that we asked for it. With a defensive policy, we would lose our dignity; our compatriots would lose their faith in the country; and on the international level, those who usually support us would lose respect and friendship for us.

[Rotchil] Marc Bazin also pointed out that the diplomatic game is an adult game, which takes two to negotiate. To be admitted at the table, one must hold cards in hand. The government must create a nationality commission from the Haitian legal standpoint. This commission would be formed with Haiti's five most distinguished lawyers. The role of the commission would be to define and assert to the Dominican authorities, at the border, our nationality criteria, to avoid an improper mixture between authentic Haitians, and undesirable people from other countries who the Dominican Republic would like to get rid of at our expense. The president of MIDH also believes that it is necessary to have military and customs surveillance reinforced at the border. He further proposed that the government launch a national solidarity loan to contribute to the creation of an accommodation fund for the repatriated people. This fund would be fed not only by part of human rights resources, but also by new resources, from taxes on [word indistinct] and from exceptional budget credit. [end recording]

MPM Warns of U.S. Imperialist 'Trap'

FL2806225591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Report by Cap-Haitian correspondent Fred Damas]

[Text] In a press release dated 27 June, the Milot Peasants Movement [MPM] warns both the Haitian and Dominican people to be vigilant and alert to the pressures of U.S. imperialism and the Balaguer dictatorship, which are working to turn them against each other. MPM urges Haitians to avoid avenging the situation through violence to Dominican people or their property.

MPM believes that the current conflict, between the Dominican Government and Haitian braceros [sugarcane cutters], is not a simple matter. It is a very complex problem, and the Haitian people must be careful to avoid the trap set for them by the Americans. MPM asks Haitians to make every effort to understand the situation's dynamics. Both the Haitian and the Dominican people are innocent, because both are being manipulated by U.S. imperialism.

MPM believes that union betweeen the Dominican and Haitian people, who share the same land, can strengthen them to face common problems together. MPM confirms its commitment to good relations with the Dominican organizations.

MNP-28 Promotes Unity as Solution to Crisis

FL2806212791 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The National Patriotic Movement of 28 November [MNP-28] contends that the anti-Haitian

campaign in the Dominican Republic, fifty years after the slaughter of several thousand Haitians by the Dominican Army, is a result of the failure of our political and business elite to exploit our vast human resources, which could have been used to establish an economically, militarily strong, and well-respected, state. The ruling class, however, failed to develop an economic policy, and left our resources to the disposal of the Dominican bourgeoisie, which is now well-established and repressive to Haitians. Facing the manipulation of the Dominican ruling class, MNP-28, aware of its responsibility, makes the following recommendations:

Establish a mass political-concensus movement of the Haitian people, which would include the executive and legislative branches, political parties, labor unions, religious institutions, and socioprofessional and student movements, to support all diplomatic initiatives the government takes, with dignity and respect for the rights of the Haitian people, and provide fair damages.

The ruling classes should rally and unite with the people through a new social contract, taking practical, just, and appropriate measures to balance the relation of strength that is clearly favorable to Haiti, on the economic, political, and military planes. A positive attitude should be cultivated among our compatriots in Haiti towards those who are now being expelled from the Dominican Republic. Our enemy is not the Dominican people, says MNP-28.

MNP-28 feels solidarity with the braceros (cane cutters), victims of exploitation, and demands fair and equitable damages for them. Haitian patriots, Haitian democrats, Haitian people, Dominican patriots, Dominican democrats, Dominican people, we are joining hands, says MNP-28, to defend justice and freedom for both peoples who share the same island. We must fight together in honor and dignity to change their living conditions.

Ambassadors Appointed, Four Await Ratification

FL2806202891 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Four more Haitian ambassadors appointed by the government have received approval from the concerned countries: Jean-Robert Sabalat, France and the Vatican; Jean Casimir, the United States and the OAS; Emmanuel Amboise, Canada; and Sony Seraphin, China and other Asian countries.

These ambassadors, appointed by the government, are now awaiting ratification from the Senate of the Republic.

Gunfire Sparks Panic in Delmas, Suspect Shot

FL2806202091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] A house was ransacked last night in Delmas 19 by six armed men amid much gunfire, producing a panic in the Delmas 19 area. In the wake of police intervention, a suspected gangster was shot, and another escaped. Police were able to recover several stolen items.

Trinidad and Tobago

Political Parties Prepare for General Elections

FL2906015591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1715 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Report by Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, June 28, CANA—Political parties in Trinidad and Tobago are gearing for general elections, constitutionally due by March but expected a lot earlier. The three main political parties hoping to capture the 34 constituencies in Trinidad and two in Tobago say their manifesto is ready and the candidates are being selected.

The parties are Prime Minister Arthur Robinson's National Alliance for Reconstruction [NAR], the United National Congress [UNC] of trade unionist Basdeo Panday, and the People's National Movement [PNM], headed by petroleum engineer Patrick Manning.

General Secretary Alloy Lequay said the NAR was in the final stage of "tying up" loose ends. Screening of the 36 candidates was completed in June and the manifesto has been drafted.

"All we're waiting for now is the report by the political leader, Mr. Robinson, on the names of the candidates who will bring victory to the party once again," Lequay told the Caribbean News Agency. "...Everything is in place. We are at the starting line and we are only waiting for the gun to be fired," Lequay, who is also leader of government business in the senate, reported. Lequay said the NAR stood a "good chance" of being voted back to office by the electorate of 700,000 because it was able to stabilise the economy, after the PNM administration had been "running around in circles" trying to solve the economic problems.

The NAR, which won 33 seats in the 1986 election, now has 26 members in the House of Representatives, the UNC six, and the PNM four. The UNC members were originally NAR parliamentarians. The two-year-old breakaway faction has drawn up the names of potential candidates for the general elections.

Panday told CANA, "We told our members that if they want to fight the elections they should submit their names. So we have a whole lot of names. When the date of the elections is announced, the membership of the party would decide who would run for which seat."

The UNC and the PNM have also completed their manifesto. Manning said the PNM, whose 30-year rule ended in 1986, was "ready to go back to its rightful place." Manning said most of the nominees for the general elections have been screened and are campaigning from house to house.

"The party has been on an elections alert for quite a while now, since we feel the population has lost confidence in the government, and elections could be called any time," Manning said.

A major campaign issue is expected to be the government's economic policy. The Trinidad and Tobago economy contracted slightly as a result of a sluggish performance in the 1991 first quarter, the Central Bank reported. Real gross domestic product (GDP)—output of goods and services—fell 1.4 percent in the 1991 first quarter, after growing five percent in the final quarter of last year. The decline was, however, smaller than the 2.2 percent fall in the first quarter of last year. The bank's economic bulletin shows that the first quarter performance reflected a 0.1 percent decline in the petroleum sector and 1.8 percent decline in the non-petroleum sectors.

Declines were recorded in agriculture (20.2 percent), manufacturing (3.4 percent), government (4.8 percent), and electricity and water (3.6 percent). Growth was recorded in construction (0.5 percent), distribution (7.1 percent), transport, storage and communication (7.1 percent), and finance, insurance and real estate (5.8 percent).

The government is pinning some of its hopes for an economic improvement on a one-billion dollar (one TT [Trinidad and Tobago] dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) concessionary loan the Inter-American Development Bank announced in June. The aid package will be used to upgrade the country's energy sector, Prime Minister Robinson reported. According to Robinson, the loan will be used for the secondary recovery of oil, on-shore, by the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc); an offshore project by Trinidad Marine Limited (Trinmar); and a refinery modernization project at Trintoc's Point-a-Pierre refinery.

Officials here say Trinidad and Tobago is putting emphasis on the various uses of natural gas in industries to boost the continued transformation of the economy. Energy Minister Hubert Atwell said:

"Worldwide prospects for natural gas look very attractive, despite unresolved issues pertaining to natural gas regulations, high capital cost—possibly renewed interest in nuclear power and uncertain pricing scenarios."

Robinson's image is expected to be a major talking point during the elections campaign. Robinson's image has been hurt by resignation of some party members who claim he is unpopular, analysts say. In June, former Junior Foreign Minister Eden Shand resigned from the ruling party and cut up his NAR membership card in Parliament. Robinson, however, did not appear too worried. He told party members Shand's action was "pitiable."

Trade Unions To Speak With 'One Voice'

FL2906184091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1809 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Report by Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, June 29, CANA—After 26 years of factionalism and fragmentation, Trinidad and Tobago's labour movement has found unity. Following several months of discussions, 32 trade union leaders representing public and private sector workers agreed on the formation in early June of the National Trade Union Centre (NATUC).

In the past, unions were affiliated to various associations including the Joint Trade Union Movement and the Council of Progressive Trade Unions. One group described itself as "the non-affiliated unions." At the conference to establish NATUC, the leaders agreed to dissolve these groupings as soon as possible.

Veteran labour leader Cecil Paul believes that a single trade union centre is important in the fight to stop what he called "inhumane policies" of the government.

"We needed to internalise and accept the fact that there will be no gains for labour without struggle and sacrifice," said Paul, an interim deputy general secretary of the NATUC. Collectively, the unions would have more impact in negotiations and struggles than individually, he said.

He defined the movement's role as that of promoting, advancing, and protecting the economic interests of the working class and working people as a whole. "So long as exploitation remains, that role cannot change and will not change," said Paul.

The unionists felt that the absence of a cohesive trade union body had been successfully used by governments and employers associations in advancing their own interests. In 1987, a serious attempt at unification was made when a draft constitution for a trade union centre was discussed to hammer out common policies and joint approaches on issues.

The unity would reflect in the demonstration of solidarity, common industrial relations policies and negotiating positions, common stands on political rights and freedoms, and on the independence of the trade unions from political and business control.

Trade unionists representing public sector workers tested the "waters of unity" last March, when they jointly called for a "day of resistance" and there was a virtual shut-down of the country. President of the Public Services Association (PSA) Dr. Kenrick Rennie, the fourth vice-president of NATUC, believes that the timing is appropriate for the unification of trade unions.

"Individually, we have been having our share of problems with employers to our disadvantage. I believe that our voice as a single body would make us a force to

reckon with in the country, especially at negotiations and fighting for the rights of workers, said Rennie.

The PSA, which represents 40,000 public sector workers has been opposing the government since it suspended a cost of living increment paid to workers, slashed salaries by 10 per cent, and failed to acknowledge two judgements handed down by the industrial court to increase the wages of public employees. An outstanding two billion dollars (one TT [Trinidad and Tobago] dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) owed to workers because of the combined actions is the top issue which NATUC plans to deal with very soon.

NATUC's interim president Errol Mc Cleod feels that the centre represents "a quantum leap forward." "No longer should we have each camp manoeuvering to get an advantage on the other. We, therefore, have created the mechanism for forging strong, unbreakable unity," said Mc Cleod during his address at the founding congress.

He isn't expecting miracles. "It is a process of constant discussion, debate, dialogue, of agreeing, of disagreeing, of agreeing to disagree, of working together, of respecting the views of each and everyone," he said.

The thrust of NATUC, said Mc Cleod, will be to bring unions together and to have orderly relationship on the industrial scene. The labour movement now "will also be best poised to make positive impact on national policies and speak with one voice," he said.

El Salvador

Reaction to Release of U.S. Aid to Military

Cristiani Comments

PA2906020691 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1815 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani has downplayed the impact that the military aid approved by the United States might have on the dialogue process. President Cristiani explained that the economic aid released by President Bush is strictly to meet the non- belligerent needs of the Armed Forces and will be used for spare parts for military vehicles and airplanes, food, and medicine. I do not think this will affect the negotiating process. It is a positive sign because the aid is justified as long as the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] exists, the president stated.

President Cristiani said that the release of the military aid should not be a pretext for the FMLN to increase its battle activity but in any case he warned that if this occurs, there will be a significant response and the guerrillas will find that the Armed Forces and the government are ready. If they think they can win, we are going to be well prepared, the president added.

[Begin Cristiani recording] First of all, this does not hinder the peace process. The U.S. aid to the Salvadoran Government had been approved since last year and the release of 50 percent [words indistinct] was approved by President Bush in January this year. [Words indistinct] the disbursement in view of the requisitions by the Armed Forces throughout the year to replace [words indistinct] and its needs. In addition, many of the Armed Forces' needs are non-belligerent. This first 50 percent disbursement which was released by President Bush will be used to replace non-belligerent materiel. In view of this, the FMLN cannot [words indistinct]. I have said that if they want war, they will have war. If they think they can win now, they will find us well-prepared and ready for war too. Nevertheless, we have always said that we believe that the peace process is the quickest and most feasible solution, which can prevent much suffering and grief among the Salvadoran people. Perhaps what they have said [words indistinct] because it is totally unjustifiable for them to continue [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Regarding the organization of a clandestine political group by the FMLN, Cristiani said it would not be legal for the FMLN to have an armed and political wing at the same time. According to the president, this falls outside the law and the Constitution. That is why the necessary opportunities [for political groups] exist, Cristiani added.

Other Parties Protest

PA2906025791 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0052 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Various sectors have protested the disbursement of military aid to the anti-democratic Armed Forces.

The UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] spoke out today about the reestablishment of military aid to the Armed Forces and said that it will only support the continuation of the war in El Salvador. According to the UNTS, the aid will have negative effects on the peace negotiations.

[Begin UNTS Leader Marco Tulio Lima recording] The aid will undermine any advances in the peace process. On the one hand, the government says that in El Salvador there is no space for violence or war, but on the other hand they request military aid. The government is contradicting itself by saying that there can be no more violence or war but then requesting more military aid from the U.S. Government. [end recording]

UNTS leader Marco Tulio Lima said that one of the basic things that must be attained at the negotiating table is a substantial advance in the country's demilitarization because without this, it is not possible to reach political agreements that could lead to a cease-fire. Lima urged all the people and the social and democratic sectors to demand tangible advances in demilitarization.

Mauricio Ernesto Vargas [Armed Forces representative in the government's dialogue commission] believes that the delivery of military aid to the Army will have no effects on the negotiations because the resumption of the aid is due to the acceptance of Alfredo Cristiani's policies. Cristiani is doing things well in the negotiations and in the political, economic, and social fields, Vargas said.

However, the UDN [National Democratic Union] rejected the resumption of the aid because it does not help the peace process. UDN Deputy Mario Aguinada Carranza termed the State Department's justifications as false.

On his part, Vice President Francisco Merino stressed that the disbursement of the $21 million is a response to the FMLN's delaying tactics in the negotiations.

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] says that the reinstatement of U.S. aid to the Army encourages the warlike attitude of the ultra-right-wing sectors. Gerardo Le Chevalier, member of the PDC's directorate, said that the fact that the FMLN has missiles is nothing new.

Colonel Vargas Comments

PA3006184991 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 28 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Vargas, deputy chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff and member of the government delegation to the talks with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], has said

that the $21.5 million approved on 27 June by the Bush Administration as nonlethal aid for El Salvador, including $5 million for a cease-fire, is a sign of U.S. acceptance of the Salvadoran Government's policy.

According to Vargas, "this U.S. Government decision has nothing to do with President Alfredo Cristiani's recent visit to the United States, because at no time did he go knock on doors to ask for this aid. Moreover, in President Cristiani's speeches at the White House and the Press Club, he asked that this aid be for national reconstruction and that the FMLN demobilize and lay down its weapons."

In October 1990, the U.S. Government withheld $42.5 million in military aid to El Salvador and is now releasing $21.5 million for nonlethal aid. It does not include the purchase of weapons and ammunition and will only be used for medicine, spare parts, and other supplies beginning in August.

Over Radio Farabundo Marti, the FMLN said on the night of 27 June that if the United States delivers the military aid, the FMLN "could stage large-scale military operations, because this is an arbitrary decision by President Bush and has no moral or political justification. It only serves to encourage the sectors of the Armed Forces, Arena [National Republican Alliance], and people who oppose the negotiations."

The guerrillas said that "this U.S. action will not set back the negotiations currently being held with the government."

FMLN Leader Critical

PA2906194291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0931 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Jun (NOTIMEX)—A rebel leader has said here that the resumption of U.S. military aid to El Salvador hinders the peace negotiations and strengthens the position of those who favor a military solution.

Miguel Saenz, a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) leader, has stated that the aid only serves to invigorate those sectors within the Army and the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance party who have been and are against a negotiated solution.

Saenz said that the U.S. decision to release $21 million of the "frozen" $42.5 million will not contribute toward advancing the negotiations between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas that have been under way for 18 months to try to end 11 years of war.

Saenz said that he believes that Washington is giving aid to step up the war and for the Salvadoran Army to gain an advantage from an eventual cease-fire.

He said that the way the conditions for releasing the $21 million is set forth indicates that it is not for the war, but warned that it represents "subterfuge."

The White House said that aid to El Salvador will consist of spare parts, medicine, food, and clothing, and not for the purchase of arms or ammunition.

U.S. Government spokesmen said that the first installment of the $21 million will be paid out in August.

Salvadoran Government and FMLN representatives could meet in July to continue the peace talks according to an announcement last week by Salvadoran Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria.

FMLN Commander Comments

PA2906033791 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0011 GMT 29 Jun 91

["First part" of interview via two-way radio with Commander Raul Rodas, member of the National Army for Democracy's 3d military region in Northern San Miguel Department, by unidentified reporter in Morazan Department—live]

[Text] [Reporter] We are in contact with Northern San Miguel Department to interview Commander Raul Rodas. As our people know, the U.S. Government decided to deliver part of a military aid package to the Armed Forces. The U.S. Department of State alleged that no progress has been made in the negotiations and that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] did not keep the 30 May deadline to reach a cease-fire. How do you feel about this, Commander?

[Rodas] Regarding your question, we must first point out that the U.S. Government has frozen approximately $44 million that would be released if the Salvadoran Government and the top military command tried and punished the people who masterminded the murder of the Jesuit priests and many other mass murders. Now we have a situation that draws my attention. The United States releases half of the frozen amount, making statements that we regard as being totally absurd. They forget the central point, which was the punishment of those who masterminded the murder of the Jesuit priests. [Words indistinct] to reportedly improve and upgrade the vehicles, air means, and, to a certain extent, the Armed Forces training.

We feel that this is not so. The argument used is that the FMLN has not kept the agreement to reach a cease-fire on 30 May, as was proposed on previous occasions. We want to flatly state this: If the agreement on the cease-fire was not complied with, it was not because the FMLN did not want to comply. In fact, the FMLN wants to point out that it has been a prime mover and has been playing a key role in making progress in the process of negotiation and reaching a cease-fire as soon as possible. (?On the cease-fire), the FMLN clearly stated that it must come accompanied by political and substantial agreements, chiefly on the topic of the Armed Forces. We can say that the government has maintained an arrogant

attitude of refusing to yield or make any concessions on the Armed Forces topic. We feel that this situation [words indistinct].

In this respect, it is not the FMLN that is reluctant to comply with the agreements, but quite the contrary. The government and the military top command are the ones opposed to reaching an agreement because they do not want to make concessions to finalize the cease-fire. It is surprising that at this time the United States should be increasing militarism, thus allowing the Salvadoran officers to feel they can act with greater impunity. For that reason, our Salvadoran fatherland is in greater danger.

We would support the gringos if they gave that aid to peasants and workers, but not to the military, because they have sufficient resources to live on, which is not true for peasants and workers who are growing poorer ever day. [Reporter] Commander, how is one to understand the fact that the military aid package is earmarked for food and medicine for the soldiers rather than for weapons, which is what normally happened?

[Rodas] Can you repeat the question?

[Reporter] How is one to understand that the military aid package is only earmarked for food and medicine for the soldiers, rather than for weapons, which is what normally happened?

[Rodas] That is right. First of all, we regard this action as a propaganda ploy. We all know that a fleet of airplanes was approved earlier. We do think that another type of aid has been provided. Today the public announcement on the $24 million [as heard] aid is made, which is reportedly subsistence aid for the Armed Forces. We think this is a propaganda ploy. The fact remains that the aid approved for the Armed Forces is not just meant to purchase (?clothing). We think that it will be used to buy, why not say it, other war means to improve their military power and weapons arsenal to continue fighting and humiliating all our people.

[Reporter] The U.S. Government said that should a cease-fire be reached in the peace negotiations between the government and the FMLN, the aid to be delivered starting in August will be immediately cut and will be spent in demobilizing the FMLN fighters. Does the FMLN accept the U.S. views?

[Rodas] [Words indistinct] it is absurd to reach the conclusion the gringos are making. First of all, it is important to make it very clear to the people, the international community, and all our National Army for Democracy soldiers that we are not negotiating the FMLN's demobilization from any standpoint. That is not mentioned in any of the points under discussion. The matter was not seen from that perspective.

We think that it is very important to make this perfectly clear because I would say that those U.S. officials who think that way are pretty mistaken. The FMLN will never agree to disband. These gringos are trying to make a parallel between the FMLN and the contras in Nicaragua. We believe it is important to state that the Army of Democracy here stemmed from the causes that led to the war and social injustice. We are an army that is recognized by all our people and the majority of the people in the world.

In this respect, we can reaffirm that there are two armies: the Army for Democracy that defends the causes of the immense majority, and the army that defends the interests of the rich. In this respect, to talk of the demobilization of the FMLN is rather puzzling to us. It is puzzling to us to realize the gringos are handling the matter this way. What we are negotiating is demilitarization and democratization. We want a new democratic and pluralist society, where all the political and social ideologies can exist, with an open and new participation that is more dynamic, active, and pluralist. Those are the concepts we are discussing.

Negotiations To Continue

PA2906043691 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Station commentary: "U.S. military assistance will not be able to halt negotiations"]

[Text] The (?release) of $21 million in U.S. military assistance for our Armed Forces is the worst thing the United States could do at this moment in the negotiating process. It is definitely condemnable that the George Bush administration has decided to provide more supplies for one of the two armies at war when the negotating process has advanced considerably and is headed for a final outcome.

Totally contradicting and [words indistinct] what the head of the government delegation, Oscar Santamaria, said this morning, the U.S. State Department today argues that the assistance is being unfrozen because no progress has been made in the negotiations and because—according to them—the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has (?M-16) missiles.

This arbitrary decision by the Bush administration has no moral or political justification. It will only serve to encourage even more the Armed Forces, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], and private enterprise groups who are opposed to the negotiations. On the other hand, this war-like decision of the U.S. Government that has been adopted contrary to the Senate and the House of Representatives will generate a tempest in the congressional halls and even at the doorsteps of the White House.

Nonetheless, we can affirm without any fear of being wrong that the new military asssistance is a deflated lifesaver for the Armed Forces, who are incapable of setting back the negotiations that will bring about changes for a true democracy.

The $21 million will not be able to solve the military deterioration of the Armed Forces, who are dragging their boots on the battlefield. In spite of this, one thing the U.S. rulers may be sure of is that their decision to continue supporting the military who remain unpunished will not disrupt negotiations. The negotiations will soon bear fruit, and we are sure El Salvador will be a new country, free from military control.

If to tear down completely the walls of the unpunished crimes we must launch large-scale operations, they must assume the consequences of having supported a gang of criminals.

Aid Not To Harm FMLN

PA2906021091 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Shortly after [Defense Minister Rene Emilio] Ponce learned of President Bush's decision to deliver $21 million to his demoralized Armed Forces, he took a breath to say what all defense ministers have said on several occasions during these last 10 years: The Armed Forces are ready to defeat the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] militarily. Our Armed Forces are ready and prepared, and if the FMLN wants war then they will have war. This was voiced today by Ponce [name indistinct] and Cristiani.

The $21 million will not even be enough to scratch the FMLN, much less defeat us. The charitable $21 million will only help to keep the cadaver of the dying Armed Forces alive for a few more days. This is an Armed Forces whose end is being discussed at the negotiating table and which, despite the millions of dollars in aid from the gringos, could not defeat the FMLN in 10 years.

The general was short of oxygen as he pretended to speak strongly, but his bark is worse than his bite. They should not feel so happy because they could end up being the greatest fools of the year.

The $21 million do not worry us at all because the money will not save the army from its problems. On other occasions, when the army has had many millions of dollars more, we have always faced them and also defeated them.

Money Fuels War 'Showcase'

PA3006034591 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Where Do the Millions Go?"]

[Text] The amount of U.S. aid, which has not gone to the Armed Forces in the past 10 years, has been used to turn San Salvador into a showcase by the people who make business of war. However, every time it rains we discover what is behind this showcase: low income neighborhoods, unemployment, and thousands of people holding on to their lives at the edge of ravines, creeks, and in so many downtrodden areas. Every time it rains, the media headlines report: Hundreds of Families Loose Their Roofs and Children Killed by Torrents of Water. Thousand and thousands of millions of dollars have entered the government's treasury but none of it has been used to resolve Salvadoran social problems or our people's lack of housing, health, and education.

Instead of feeding a murdering Armed Forces, the United States should start thinking of investing their [word indistinct] to solve the problems of the depressed areas that they themselves created. Most of the displaced people living in these depressed areas were displaced by a war that [words indistinct] with the aid of the United States.

Furthermore, each time these oppressed people have tried to resettle in lands where their children will not run the risk of being dragged by the rains, the oligarchs who live in their large residential mansions [word indistinct]—such as [Nationalist Republican Alliance President] Armando Calderon Sol or (?Antonio Cabrales), the minister of the oligarchy—have appeared to call for respect of private property. [sentence as heard]

The [word indistinct] of the huts [word indistinct] at the edge of cliffs and crumbling down because of the rains, reaffirms the justness of our struggle and our [words indistinct] changing this situation until our poor people can live a dignified life.

Commander Sees 'Progress' in Peace Negotiations

PA2906011991 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The following are statements made today by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Commander Herson Martinez during a news conference in San Salvador. Commander Martinez stated his optimism over the negotiating process, which he characterized as evidence of the progress that has been made. He noted that difficulties at the negotiating table are a sign that a general agreement is forthcoming.

[Martinez] "The fact that there is a negotiating process means the country is making progress. Both sides are working seriously. We are discussing the fundamental points. Everybody knows about all the difficulties and contradictions that the two sides have faced at the negotiating table and about the temporary impasses and excitement. These difficulties could be viewed as a sign that decisive matters are being discussed. This is certainly a sign; we want it to be a sign of a forthcoming global agreement."

Herson Martinez, commander of the FMLN's metropolitan area, has said that the country is at the doorstep of important changes and that the countdown to the end of the war has begun despite the fact that the government insists on increasing the intensity of the war, something that is in contrast with the FMLN's will to make the negotiations yield fruit.

[Martinez] "We think that we are at the doorstep of historic changes in Salvadoran society. It is evident that the people have had to go through a phase of political and military struggle to make changes possible because of the stubborn, irrational, and authoritarian nature that existed in El Salvador, but the peoples' sacrifices will yield fruit. Changes will take place. There must be a negotiating process and a process of change. There are limited but real possibilities, and these possibilities have a very important scope. However, the people's struggle is still needed to reach the country's goals. Perhaps we should tell our people that the countdown to the end of the war has begun."

Commander Martinez said that for the time being no deadline can be set for the end of the war because everything depends on agreements on the Armed Forces and on social achievements, among other things.

[Martinez] "For the time being, for as long as no agreement is reached, the war will continue. The government insists on increasing the intensity of the war. However, the FMLN has decided to make progress. We trust that we will resolve the Armed Forces' problem, that we will secure economic and social achievements for the people, and that we will firmly march toward a cease-fire and to a situation of peace-under-arms in this country.

"As a legitimate political opposition force, the FMLN is adopting measures to promote the struggle in the political arena. The FMLN is a political expression in the country. It is a political force and has moral and political authority. We are going to intensify the political struggle. To do this, the FMLN has created in the country's interior, a political committee—a political leadership committee—to promote this position."

Ponce on Army's Readiness

PA2906040791 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0307 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] General Rene Emilio Ponce, defense and public security minister, has asked the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to think things through before engaging in a new military adventure that may thwart the peace talks. The FMLN is threatening possible major operations in response to the release of U.S. military aid to our country. Gen. Ponce reacted by stating that the FMLN must think things through because it could lose its little commitment to peace and bring division among its cadres.

[Begin Ponce recording] What this truly shows is that there is a big split within the FMLN. One group, the warmongering group, does not want to forget its Marxist-Leninist ideology of violence, of reaching power through violent means. Then there is a small group that appears to support negotiations and is commited to seeking peace through the peace process with the government. [end recording]

Gen. Ponce did not doubt the FMLN's military capability, since it has sophisticated weaponry, such as SA-14 and SA-16 missiles, as well as other military equipment, adding that this is not everything in the battlefield.

[Begin Ponce recording] We, as an institution, have our equipment and plans. As President Alfredo Cristiani flatly stated, if the FMLN is threatening an offensive, it will find us very ready and will once again meet disappointment and be defeated, as happened in 1981, 1989, and 1990. I think the FMLN must think things through and decide if it really wants peace or if it wants to continue with this war. [end recording]

He said that in operations the army is conducting in the country's 14 departments, the FMLN's military resistance is gradually diminishing. In addition, the FMLN has experienced a large number of defections of people who no longer believe in the war the rebels are waging.

Front Reports Air Force Bombing of Guazapa Hill

PA2906013691 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0032 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] We have received a last minute report on the intense bombings in the Guazapa area. Over 40 bombs; repeat: Over 40 bombs have been dropped on Guazapa hill today. Bombings have also been carried out in the San Vicente area. We have last minute reports on this.

The last minute reports that have reached Radio Venceremos state that at 0700 hours today the Salvadoran Air Force [FAS] bombed the southern area of the La Campana hill, San Vicente Department, with two A-37 airplanes. The reports also state that the enemy later shot several times with 105-mm mortars [Howitzers] at the same area which is inhabited by civilians, thus, endangering them.

The last minute report from the Guazapa hill states that since 0900 hours today, FAS airplanes bombed several positions on the Guazapa hill for four consecutive hours. Forty 500-pound bombs were dropped on the area during the operation.

These actions show the enemy's despair caused by their inability to respond to our legitimate military actions, such as the one carried out at the Mariona Jail, as well as their inability to remove us from our territories with ground forces.

On our part, there was no problem and we would like to stress that we interpret these offensive actions by the enemy as the result of the Salvadoran Armys bravado prompted by the recent approval of the U.S. military aid.

We also state that, in view of this gesture from [President] Bush, which clashes with the peace negotiations currently being held by the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], we have the duty to reconsider the defensive nature of our operations. We, therefore, announce that we will respond militarily to this attitude by the enemy.

This report is signed by the Joint Staff of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front.

Defense Ministry Orders Attacks Investigated

PA2906145391 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 25 Jun 91 p 28

[Text] The Defense Ministry has ordered that the charges brought by several displaced people's organizations be thoroughly investigated. The organizations have reported that army units have allegedly attacked the civilian communities of San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango, and a town in Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department.

A Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] report indicated that CRIPDES [Christian Committee for Displaced Salvadorans] had used the incident for publicity purposes. What occurred was that an extremist group, fleeing from Atlacatl Battalion troops, entered the San Jose Las Flores community in search of protection. Reportedly, the community was celebrating the fifth anniversary of the settlement of displaced people in the area when the incident occurred. The report added that the residents had thrown stones at the soldiers, aggressively formed human barriers, and shouted subversive slogans to indicate that the Army could not enter the community because it was "territory under the control of the National Army for Democracy and territory liberated by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]."

Coprefa reported that the soldiers decided to hurl tear gas and fire gunshots into the air, and do nothing more because there were many people in the area. Coprefa asserted that the Armed Forces must have the freedom to move within the national territory to comply with its constitutional mission and cannot be coerced by anyone to the contrary.

In the San Matias [as published] and Quezaltepeque, La Libertad cases, Coprefa reported that the Defense Ministry had instructed the Atlacatl Battalion's command to initiate a complete investigation, using all means available, on the charges brought by CORDECON [not further identified] on television on 14 June. CORDECON reported alleged abuses in the mentioned communities by some members of an Atlacatl combat unit. Coprefa revealed that the Atlacatl Battalion has given a detailed report on the events in both places and that these "facade" organizations are merely "manipulating" events for propaganda purposes.

Government Party Leader Denies Party Rift

PA2906023891 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Jun 91 p 3

[Text] Armando Calderon, mayor of San Salvador and president of the governing Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena], stated yesterday that it is not true that there is a rift in his party. He asserted that anonymous groups opposed to the peace process that President Alfredo Cristiani is implementing do not belong to the party. Calderon made this statement after having dedicated public laundries in San Salvador's Coro neighborhood.

The Arena leader said that the rift is an invention of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. He noted that his party "has clearly told President Cristiani that it supports him and the peace process."

Arena is strong, he said, but he added that other groups have doubts about the peace process. Some groups have made their position known through the media. Others have issued threats anonymously. He stated: These are ultraleftist and ultrarightist groups that are "sick and aberrant and hide behind anonymous messages."

Calderon stated: "I attach no importance to them because they do not have the courage to show their faces. In politics these kind of people are called cowards" and do not deserve to be mentioned.

Regarding the FMLN decision not to join the country's political life until there is a specific agreement on demilitarization, Calderon said that Salvadoran society should be demilitarized but, he added, it is the FMLN who has militarized society.

Calderon emphasized: "They are the ones who like to speak about military matters and who love military life." There are contradictions because El Salvador's justification for having a large Armed Forces is the FMLN; were it not for the FMLN, the country would have a small Army.

Calderon concluded by saying: "They can engage in politics as soon as they put down the weapons and abandon their strategy of attacking and destroying the country's infrastructure."

Nicaragua

'Recontras' Reportedly Occupy Northern Town

PA2906212291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1902 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Managua, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—A source at the Government Ministry has confirmed to ACAN-EFE that at 0830 [1439 GMT] this morning, a group of armed former "contras" occupied the town of Pantasma in northern Nicaragua.

According to the military source, after seizing the town of Pantasma, an unspecified number of former "contras" robbed a store and a rural bank, taking two policemen hostage.

A military source told ACAN-EFE that the so-called "re-contras" are divided into two groups; one group maintains "control" of Pantasma while the other group surrounds the town.

Army and police patrols were taken to Pantasma to reestablish order, the source added, without disclosing further details.

Earlier this month, approximately 100 heavily armed "re-contras" entered San Jose de Bocay, where they robbed food storage centers and burned houses.

The heavily armed former "contras" have surrounded the small town of Pantasma, preventing both vehicles and pedestrians from entering or leaving the town. However, the source explained that there have been no deaths during the attack.

These anti-Sandinists groups detained a truck, stealing its cargo of food, clothes, and other supplies near Pantasma, the military source stated.

The pro-Sandinist "Radio Ya" reported that this action by the "re-contras" is the result of the campaign of death threats against the members and followers of the party that governed Nicaragua during the past decade.

On 27 June, approximately 25 "re-contras" launched an attack with rifle fire and grenades against police headquarters in Nueva Segovia Department, on the border with Honduras, which resulted in the death of one civilian and the wounding of two others.

Flee, Head Into Mountains

PA2906234591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2225 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Managua, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—A spokesman at the Government Ministry reported today that a group of former "contras," who today occupied the town of Pantasma for three hours, fled into the mountains of northern Nicaragua.

Before fleeing into the mountains, the so-called "re-contras" liberated three Sandinist policemen [as received] who were taken hostage during the three hours that they occupied the town, the source told ACAN-EFE.

The heavily-armed rebels seized the town of Pantasma at 0830 (1430 GMT) this morning, and they left at 1110 (1710 GMT), the Government Ministry spokesman added.

Before leaving the town, the "re-contras" looted a store and the rural bank of Pantasma, according to reports.

"The situation is already under control and tranquility is gradually returning," a military source said, after admitting that the "re-contras" did not allow vehicles or pedestrians in or out of town. [passage omitted]

Army and police patrols were sent to Pantasma, where heavy clashes took place between former "contras" and Sandinist soldiers during the civil war, to reestablish order.

Common graves containing the remains of peasants who were killed by either the former rebels or the Army have been found in Pantasma, according to reports from Managua. [passage omitted]

The attack launched by the "re-contras" took place exactly one day after former President Daniel Ortega warned that "revengeful" politicians are leaving, as the only alternative to his party, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), "armed rebellion to avoid being physically and politically eliminated."

This is the third outbreak of violence in 12 months against the government of President Violeta Chamorro.

The first outbreak of violence took place in late November, 1990, in Jalapa, on the border with Honduras, where approximately 70 former rebels launched an attack on a police detachment. This resulted in the death of 11 people, the wounding of 20, and the arrest of 30 others.

The "re-contras" have stated that they have rebelled against Chamorro. According to the "re-contras," President Chamorro has not fulfilled her promises of delivering land, credits, and homes to them in exchange for returning their weapons.

A delegation of the Government Ministry has made contacts with several leaders of the "re-contras" to ascertain their demands, which have forced them to again take up arms against the government.

FSLN Issues Communique on Land Usage

PA2906033491 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Jun 91 pp 1, 10

["Text" of communique issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, in Managua on 27 June]

[Text] Keeping in line with its commitments to democracy, peace, and national stability, and remaining loyal to the interests of the people for which it has always struggled, the FSLN has been defending—since the signing of the Transition Protocol—the rights of thousands of Nicaraguan families in the rural areas and in the cities to enjoy and safeguard what the revolution gave them: land, housing, credits, employment, a just salary, and—above all—dignity and security regardless of political leanings.

This has been a daily struggle against all of those who, in one way or another, want to revive the Somozist system in Nicaragua. They also try to disavow the institutional bases on which the democratic system rests under the protection of the 1987 political constitution. They are the ones who want to take the country into chaos, reviving the threats of the war and its aftermath of death and destruction.

The standard-bearer of Somozism have launched an attack against the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the police to try to destroy the armed institutions of public order that are guaranteed by the constitution and to try to replace them with repressive forces that will follow their revengeful interests.

They want to destroy the FSLN by denying us the democratic participation to which we are legally entitled as an opposition party, trying to destroy our leadership and members through a continuous campaign of lies and slander.

It is thanks to the FSLN that we have democracy in the country today. Those plotting against democracy—many of them henchmen of the previous Somozist regime, leaders of the counterrevolutionary directorate paid by the CIA, and exploiting landholders who are hungry for more land—now have the legal mechanisms for doing what they want to deny the rights of the FSLN.

The revolutionary government of the FSLN distributed among the exploited and humble people of Nicaragua a large part of the national wealth during its 10 years in power. It did so in a conscientious and legitimate manner, supporting all of its actions with revolutionary laws.

In this manner, the Agrarian Reform was born, and we are all very proud of it. It provided over 100,000 peasant households with the unrenounceable right to the land that was once denied them. As a result, parcels of land and housing were also assigned to thousands of families in Managua and other cities. This process was endorsed by the laws that some want to abolish today in order to return privileges to the landholders in the rural areas, to the former owners of neighborhoods, and to the land speculators in the cities.

The activities of the FSLN as the governing party were legitimate. They were based on laws approved by the country's National Assembly and on decrees and rulings from the executive branch with basis on the Constitution. Businessmen and property owners also benefited from actions promoted by the FSLN. Some bank credit debts were suspended, and others were restructured. Supplies, equipment, machinery, and transport goods were provided at deliberately low prices. Many people took advantage of monetary changes to pay their debts to the banks. Many others were paid or compensated with land and assets that some of the people now want to recover or have already recovered.

Those who have engaged in slander and lies are the ones who are really responsible for theft, robbery, fraud, and embezzlement. We know the people who took advantage of the resources that the U.S. Government put at the disposal of the armed counterrevolutionaries and who became rich and fattened their bank accounts in Miami while other Nicaraguans were dying on the battlefields. We know the people who organized drug trafficking within the supply networks of the contras to become millionaires. We know those who are buying for pennies the Nicaraguan foreign debt to later buy privatized enterprises. We know who engages in lobbying activities to make big businesses with the government. We know who enjoys the benefits produced by state enterprises without paying for the new investments, thus stealing from the national patrimony.

The Sandinists did not reach power to become rich. We will never bow in shame when confronted with slander and lies. We have always said we are prepared to review abuses and illegal actions that could have been committed behind the back of the revolutionary government.

As part of this campaign, efforts are being made to present, based on agrarian laws, the allotments of land that were made on 25 February and 25 April 1990 as illegal actions. On those occasions, property titles were given to thousands of families that had not yet received their land titles. On those occasions, a small number of people were granted properties in exchange for other property, or to legalize an operation, or to make compensations, or to return property, regardless of their political affiliation—as can be observed in the lists that Somozist and neosomozist hypocrites use to make much ado.

The FSLN, maintaining the same clear and firm conduct it upheld while in the government, demands the following:

1. All the land that has been returned, or exchanged, or given in the form of indemnity, or somehow ceded, or granted as compensation to any private person by the Sandinist Government must be returned to the state. Ths same applies to the land granted by the current government.
2. All the property that because of its size constitutes a large landholding must form part of the national patrimony. All this property must immediately form part of a land reservoir that will benefit:
   a. The peasants removed from their cooperatives.
   b. The landless peasants who were members of the Nicaraguan Resistance.
   c. Discharged members of the Sandinist People's Army and the police.
   d. The workers and technicians of the agricultural and livestock sector.
3. Thus, the government could repay in any suitable way, all the people who benefited through land exchanges, legalizations, compensations, and the return of large areas of land. The same would apply to the rich land owners.
4. All these properties would become part of the mentioned reservoir immediately. The reservoir would

become the main contributor to peace, security, and tranquility in the country, especially for the thousands of peasant families who have still not received their just demands for a tract of land.
5. No Sandinist producer who benefited from a land exchange or a property return will refuse to accept this just measure. All the rich land owners and agriculture firms, members of rightist political parties or COSEP, [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] should relinquish the lands without excuses or delays if they really want peace.

The FSLN, with blood, won the legitimate and unwavering right to participate in the struggle to form a new Nicaragua when we started to fight on 19 July 1979. We are not frightened by threats and attacks coming from the same cowards and traitors who have always existed. We are not going to abandon the defense of the country's sovereignty and the people's interest because they are our interests.

We will not allow any one of the revolution's basic achievements to be reversed. We will not allow any attack against the Sandinist People's Army or the Police Corps to prosper. We will not allow one inch of land to be taken away from the families—be they Sandinists or contras—who received the legal benefits of the Agrarian Reform. We will not allow the rich land owners to rule again in Nicaragua. We will not allow one single urban resident to be deprived of his land or his properties. We will not allow the legal branch to be dismantled.

This is our commitment to the blood of our heroes, our martyrs, and our people. There will be democracy and rights for all, and democracy will first serve the poor and dispossessed in Nicaragua. In the defense of these rights, attained by the Revolution, we will not go a step backward. Free Fatherland or Death FSLN National Directorate

* Draft Statutes Bar Participation, Dissent

91CA0154A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 May 91 p 3

[Editorial by Gioconda Belli]

[Text] The Draft Statutes of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] are a clear reflection of the time of transition we are now experiencing. They are an attempt to be something new, while integrating certain elements of a formal democracy (elections). However, they continue arrangements typical of the period when the FSLN was a political-military structure, preserving the rigid traits of orthodox Leninist parties.

The little connection one sees between the statutes and the program (for example, the statutes do not develop new forms of integration or the relationship with the masses which a program should assume) gives the impression that even the adaptation to the new historical conditions which the party requires is confused. Nevertheless, that is what discussion is for. In this article, we should like to concentrate on an analysis of the type of democracy that can be deduced from the statutes.

1—The last paragraph of the introduction states that it is necessary to organize the FSLN as a "party of cadres guaranteeing its stability, a party open to the masses in order to strengthen their struggles and election campaigns." In other words, there is a dual relationship: on the one hand, the party acting to "strengthen" mass struggles and on the other, the masses acting as an election force to give the party access to power.

This view seems to me to be somewhat utilitarian, traditional, and scarcely revolutionary in its conception. All parties are connected with the masses for election purposes. What should differentiate the FSLN, since it is a revolutionary party, is not only its form of insertion in the masses, but also the way in which it expresses the party-masses relationship.

And yet, it is this very relationship that is least defined in the statutes. So true is this that in the chapter "Members' Rights and Duties," only in Article 13, paragraph c, does one find "additional duties" outlined as "Working actively to solve the people's problems, participating actively in at least one of the mass social organizatiions of their sector."

In previous paragraphs, what is essentially emphasized as a duty is "getting partisan policies down to the masses" ("implementation of programmatic platforms"; "rallying round principles"; "promoting the spirit of fighting for peace"; "promoting respect for heroes and martyrs"). The essential action of being nourished by the masses, of knowing their problems and hearing their proposals, is not spelled out as a member's duty.

Actions involving the masses are proposed, but no action to convey the feeling of the masses to the party. In other words, the ebb and flow to and from the masses is not reflected in the statutes, resulting in a verticalist tone. Democracy, the statutes seem to propose, comes from the party, exists in the party, and then "gets down" to the masses.

Important Omissions

2—One might respond that the masses "are" in the party, in its rank-and-file assemblies, and so on, but therein lies the statutes' other problem. They do not mention by what magic means the rank-and-file assemblies (which will be inserted in the masses, will get their proposals, concerns, and information "up" to the complex leadership hierarchy outlined in Chapters 1 and 2.

They state that the Assemblies will elect their representatives to departmental congresses, but do not state the functions of such congresses or when they will meet. Likewise, the last paragraph of Chapter 2 on "Local Organs" states that the work of territorial organizations will be aimed at analyzing, responding to, and resolving specific problems of each territory "within the framework of the resolutions of national organs."

How communication will be established between these local organs and higher bodies and what the power ratio between them will be is never stated, contained solely, as it is, within the rigid framework of the "resolutions of the national organs, as if what the local organs were to do is obey, while "further strengthening the party and pursuing the work of its members."

In other words, a framework of extreme verticalism.

Little Democratic Expression

3—Another striking aspect of the statutes is the detailed presentation of "disciplinary measures and the deactivation" of individual members of the FSLN and the absence of mechanisms enabling the group to impugn or challenge the actions of leadership organs. They establish no mechanism of any kind through which the rank and file might respond organically, evaluate or challenge the action of leadership organs or individuals belonging to such organs.

A truly democratic revolutionary party must have mechanisms to evaluate and sanction leaders and take into account the fact that, due to the complex relationships existing within a party, mechanisms established for rank-and-file members cannot simply be considered as applicable to "everyone." In practice, not everyone in a party is alike and this reality must be taken into account if one is trying to promote a truly democratic and revolutionary operation.

Right To Dissent?

4—In addition, the free play of ideas within the party is restricted by "democratic centralism." The "Members Rights" contain several troublesome proposals. For example, Chapter 10, paragraph b, states that the member has the right: "To make proposals and defend his opinions as long as no decision has been made on the matter." Why can one not disagree with a decision and put that disagreement on record, even if the resolution has been approved? Why deny the right to disagree and allow a member to express his disagreement to other organs?

We all know that this type of mandate gives rise to the sheeplike behavior that is so harmful to a party, stifling the member's individual initiative and creativity that are so essential to the good health of the group. Lenin was part of a minority when he decided the October Revolution. Being in the minority is not a crime, nor can it be stamped as improper conduct within the party.

The following paragraph states that members cannot express their dissenting opinions outside the organization. If we are talking of a party within the masses and open to the masses, then why should we continue to act like an underground organization? The fact that there might be members who do not agree with party policies should not be cause for concern. It is healthy and the fact that they should discuss issues with the masses is also healthy. The masses can enrich opinions.

Likewise, paragraph f, concerning "private" criticism, is inconsistent with the public nature of the action of members and their integration into the masses. A Sandinist must answer to the people and his action may be cause for criticism inside and outside of the party.

My Proposals

5—In conclusion, I would propose the following:

a—that special care be taken in the statutes to establish party-masses ties as a fundamental obligation of members, making very clear the obligation of listening and being sensitive to the people's feelings to which partisan action must respond in a dynamic dialectic of mutual enrichment;

b—that channels of communication between rank-and-file assemblies and local organs with national organs be clearly established; that it be the obligation of the 120 members of the Sandinist Assembly to heed the rank-and-file assemblies of their territories in order to be enriched by their experience and be able to represent their interests between congresses;

c—that there be a definition of mechanisms of evaluation, oversight, and challenge enabling the rank and file to exercise an oversight function vis-a-vis party leadership organs; and

d—that the right of members to express dissenting opinions be established and that mechanisms tending to convert criticism into a sectarian, clandestine activity within the party be eliminated.

* Draft Program Attention to Media Criticized

91CA0153A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 22 May 91 p 4

[Commentary by Manuel Eugarrios]

[Text] At least this time the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] draft program does not lump us journalists together with other professionals and devotes a special section of point five to us. This is quite something, compared to the treatment we got during the term of the revolutionary government.

As we have clarified so often, it is not just that we, the men and women of the press, regard ourselves as privileged individuals with exclusive rights. No one can deny, however, as the Sandinist leadership itself acknowledged in its speeches, that journalism transcends the individualism of the other so-called liberal professionals, not just because the mass media perform an all-important social mission but also because they are the producers and reproducers of ideologies.

Nevertheless, the recognition that we received in these leaders' speeches remained theoretical and was not really reflected in the living and working conditions of the overwhelming majority of revolutionary journalists.

We were simply used as an effective tool to defend the power that had been attained, to consolidate grassroots achievements, to mobilize the masses for revolutionary tasks, and of course to raise the social and political consciousness of the people.

Owing to the same top-down structure that choked off the creativity and independence of trade-union and social organizations, the UPN [Union of Nicaraguan Journalists] even became a subsidiary body and, therefore, could not battle with the integrity and vigor that the vital interests of its membership would have dictated, even though, paradoxically, its ranks consisted mostly of Sandinist newsmen who were able to fulfill their mission with such devotion.

To top it all off, during these 10 years we were not even able to acquire the social status that journalists enjoy in other areas, since senior Sandinist officials, whether of the party or the State, looked down on us.

In other words, these self-styled Sandinist officials of the revolution had the same domineering, simplistic view of us as did the bourgeoisie: as unreliable, superficial, and dull. What all this reflects is an almost complete lack of political and, worse yet, ideological confidence and trust. It is true that there were exceptions, but by and large this was how we were treated, even though during the revolutionary period many of the vices that our profession has traditionally suffered from were banished.

As for the agencies that the FSLN entrusted with defending the Sandinist mass media, such as the DEPEP [expansion not given] and later the DAP [Agitation and Propaganda Department], they deserve a special chapter that someone ought to write, owing to the enormous harm that they caused journalists. For our part, we will note only that alongside the official censorship in the hands of inept individuals, they did great damage to the critical spirit, imagination, and investigative skills of this generation's reporters, although here too there were rare exceptions.

As we indicated at the outset, it is encouraging that the framers of the FSLN Draft Program devoted a special section to us journalists. Even so, however, we feel that the long-standing superficial approach to and underestimation of our important trade union persist.

Indeed, this section of the program speaks of the mass media in the abstract and outlines the all-important task that they can perform in connection with national values, pluralism, democracy, the rights of workers, forthright reporting, etc.

It so happens, however, that in daily life the mass media are neither abstract nor are they important in and of themselves as businesses or agencies. Rather, it is journalists who give them life and make them work, journalists who, moreover, are, among all their workers, their primary human resources.

And as human beings, like all other professionals, they have rights, needs, and aspirations, and of course they seek the social status that they deserve. Regrettably, though, the aforementioned section of the Sandinist program contains not a single word about this.

Panama

Judge Explains Release on Bail of Justines

PA2806193391 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] First Circuit Court Judge Luis Guillermo Zuniga this morning visited the Presidency of the Republic to report to the president on the decision to grant bail to former military officers Justines and Cedeno. According to Judge Zuniga, his office on 2 May issued a ruling that determined certain individuals indicted in the case of the special accounts and funds in favor of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] were charged with embezzlement and that other individuals were charged with corruption of public officials, including Marcos Justines and Rafael Cedeno, who were released on bail according to the law.

[Zuniga] "This document of 130 pages, dated 2 May, was sent to the Office of the Attorney General; the Office of the Attorney General did not present an appeal. It was determined then that the offense of Justines and Cedeno was not of embezzlement, but corruption of public officials.

[Reporter] "But if the checks were signed by Justines?

[Zuniga] "The checks were signed by Justines...

[Reporter] "They were made out to third parties, so how could Justines not be responsible for that participation?

[Zuniga] "Who says that signing a checking is embezzlement?

[Reporter] "He was the one who was handling FDP funds.

[Zuniga] "And who says that handling FDP funds is a sine qua non condition for embezzlement?

[Reporter] "Why are the others accused of embezzlement?

[Zuniga] "Because they managed public funds and had them under their control."

As for the announcement made yesterday by the president on behalf of the Executive Branch, Judge Zuniga preferred to plea Article 440 of the Judicial Code, which refers to ethics, and emphasized that it was necessary for society to understand that a judicial ruling must be respected and what the basic elements of a process are.

After making statements to RPC Television, Judge Luis Guillermo Zuniga went to the Presidency to report to President Guillermo Endara Galimany on the decision to

release on bail former soldiers Cedeno and Justines. When leaving the presidential palace, this is what he said:

[Zuniga] "I simply came to bring some documents to the president. These documents are related to the Justines case and they clarify that Mr. Justines has no case pending in the circuit courts of the judicial branch. I have not met with the president, he could not see me because my visit was not included in his work agenda.

"I want to point out to the people that the president is a citizen who respects and defends judicial independence.

[Reporter] "Why does the judicial branch have to give explanations to the executive branch, if they are independent?

[Zuniga] "We are not accounting to the president on the actions of the judicial branch. We simply left him some documents that clarify that Mr. Justines does not have any other penal case pending in the circuit courts.

[Reporter] "How do you feel about the people's harsh criticism of your actions?

[Zuniga] "That shows a lack of judicial knowledge in the country."

The press secretariat issued a communique announcing that First Circuit Judge Luis Guillermo Zuniga went this morning to the [Presidential] Palace of the Herons to request a meeting with President Guillermo Endara. The president refused to meet with the judge.

Meanwhile, Attorney Cuba Nelson de Villarreal justified her decision as follows:

[Villarreal] "We feel that the District Attorney's Office has acted according to the law.

[Reporter] "I understand that in this case, there were nearly 15 persons involved. The person who signed the checks was Colonel Justines. Why is he not accused of embezzlement?

[Villarreal] "The judge ruled that this was a case of corruption of a public official, not embezzlement.

[Reporter] "What did the investigations conducted by the office of the District Attorney disclose?

[Villarreal] "The District Attorney's Office did not look into these cases. It was notified of the judge's ruling. The Sixth District Court was looking into the issue of embezzlement, but it was all collected at the First Circuit Court. The Sixth District Court and the Ninth Court learned of the case of embezzlement, but the First Circuit Court Judge gathered all the information and came here because we had a case on Justines that did not concern embezzlement, rather a case of false testimony in which he was saying that...[changes thought] he was not even interrogated here in this case."

Endara Comments

PA2806233191 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] In answer to a question on the release of former military officers Marco Justines and Rafael Cedenos, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara said this morning that the executive branch will respect the independence of the other state branches.

[Begin recording] [Endara] I will respect the independence of the judicial and the legislative branches throughout my administration.

I have to say that all I have done is to state that I completely disagree with that decision. I, like any other citizen, have the right to state my disagreement with any particular decision. I also have the right to state my concern over matters that should be investigated. I am not going to investigate them because I cannot do it. This is why I have asked the authority that has the power to investigate to do so.

[Unidentified reporter] Some sectors have said that there has been meddling in judicial branch matters. Some sectors have said...

[Endara, interrupting] Yes. I have already answered that I am not intervening in judicial branch matters. I just expressed my opinion. I am fully entitled to do so. This has nothing to do with the independence of the judicial branch. [end recording]

Ecuador Asked To Extradite Former FDP Officer

PA2906225291 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Jun 91 p 16

[Report by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

[Text] A request was sent to the Ecuadoran Government on 26 June for the extradition of Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, former chief of information for the dismantled Panama Defense Forces [FDP], so that he can be investigated for crimes against state property and for damages sustained by Radio Exitosa.

The Foreign Ministry, through diplomatic channels, asked the Ecuadoran Government to extradite the former officer so that he can be summoned to the Attorney General's Office.

Cuba A. Nelson de Villarreal, judge for the fourth court of Panama's first legal circuit, asked Foreign Minister Julio Linares to seek the immediate extradition of Lopez Grimaldo, who several months ago traveled to Ecuador on a safe-conduct. The fourth arraignment court is advancing an indictment against Lopez Grimaldo on charges of crimes against state property and damages sustained by Radio Cadena Exitosa de Panama.

In response to the request by Judge Nelson de Villarreal, Foreign Minister Linares formally requested Lopez

Grimaldo's extradition through note No. AJ 305, which was sent to Pio Oswaldo Cueva, Ecuador's ambassador to Panama.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Harmodio Arias Cerjack, Panama's ambassador to Ecuador, upon receiving information from Panama regarding the extradition request, asked Ecuadoran authorities to prevent Lopez Grimaldo from leaving Ecuador and to adopt the necessary precautionary measures to prevent a travesty of justice.

Foreign Minister Discusses Bases With Hinton

PA2806130391 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jun 91 p 28-A

[Article by Elkilia Santos]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said that he has been conversing with U.S. Government officials so that the anticipated program of dismantling the U.S. military bases in Panama advances as slowly as possible.

Linares said that he met with U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton yesterday morning to convey the concerns of the Endara Government and Local 907 [Armed Forces Employees Union] about the possible early transfer of the U.S. military bases to Panama.

He said that, although Ambassador Hinton told him that the United States is following a program of dismantling the military bases early, he also said that he would talk to the military authorities who deal with this matter in this country.

The Panamanian foreign minister stated that it is important to point out that the dismantling of the military bases in Panama is not solely due to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. The treaties state that the bases should disappear in the year 2000, but it is also true that the United States is reducing its military personnel around the world.

Apart from this, Foreign Minister Linares expressed his satisfaction because, as he said, the international isolation the country has suffered since the beginning of the Endara Government has ended.

He reported that, except for Cuba and Mexico, which are special cases, all other diplomatic missions in this country are headed by an ambassador.

Police Deny U.S. Army Arrested M-20 Member

PA2906025991 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Jun 91 pp 1, 48

[Report by Justino Gonzalez Jr.]

[Text] Panamanian authorities confiscated documents detailing a plot to overthrow President Guillermo Endara through an armed movement called M-20 [20 December Movement] from Juan McKenzie, a leader of the leftist wing—called The Tendency—of the Revolutionary Democratic Party, when he was arrested in Puerto Obaldia on the border with Colombia on 26 June.

According to Chief of Police Gonzalo Menendez Franco, McKenzie was arrested when he posed as a policeman in charge of investigating the murder of a foreign couple in the area several weeks ago.

Menendez Franco denied that McKenzie, who is also an M-20 leader, was detained by the U.S. Army South's 470th Military Intelligence Brigade, as some newspapers have reported.

A Public Ministry source investigating McKenzie for plotting against the state's internal security has reported that the documents detail the M-20's principles and organization. According to these documents, the M-20 is composed of a "national directorate, an executive secretariat, a staff, and an urban guerrilla leaderhip structure."

The M-20 encourages infiltration in trade unions, sports organizations, parents clubs, or any other guild, the source added.

One of the passages in the documents states that the M-20's national directorate is the only one authorized to order the execution by firing squad of the movement's members.

The seized documents indicate that armed struggle and compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties are essential political objectives of the movement.

"The flag is a rectangle with M-20 and an oath in white over a black background," the documents state.

One of the purposes of this armed group is to wage "armed struggle to subvert the neocolonial and oligarchic order because of the government's inability."

McKenzie, an electronics engineer who studied in Cuba and was a leader of the Federation of Panamanian Students during the Torrijos government, is being held at the Technical Judicial Police headquarters where he has declared a hunger strike.

Egber Wetherborne and Graciela Dixson, defense lawyers for McKenzie, said that their client told them "that the documents were planted in his briefcase and that he thinks this might be a ploy by the U.S. military." He gave no further details.

Before he was arrested, McKenzie had been a member of a group that was organizing activities to protest the celebration of a Panama-U.S. Friendship Week on Balboa Avenue, an intelligence source said.

Legislator: U.S. Promotes 'Coup' Against Endara

PA2806141691 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Jun 91 p 1

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] A group within the U.S. State Department is promoting a "self-inflicted coup" against President Guillermo Endara to replace him with Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Legislator Miguel Bush said yesterday.

Bush, who has just returned from Washington, said that the strategy to replace Endara includes using individuals who form part of the "Civic Crusade" so that they will promote a Constituent Assembly.

According to the PRD legislator, Ford's visit to Washington last May was not just to negotiate with the International Financial Institutions (IFIS) inasmuch as Ford availed himself of the opportunity "to promote himself" as the individual to replace Endara, without there being any break in the constitutional order.

Miguel Bush claimed that Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon would represent an obstacle to the options of certain groups within the State Department and therefore, he did not rule out his "elimination."

The PRD deputy said that the Panamanian left does not have the capacity to destabilize Panama, as certain government spokesmen claim, and, at any rate, it would be the Americans who have this power.

University Students Protest Supreme Court Ruling

PA2806182091 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1742 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Students from the School of Public Administration closed the Transisthmian Highway for a short while to protest a Supreme Court ruling.

Yesterday the Supreme Court issued a ruling on the modification of regulations on elections at the University of Panama. Cesar Moreno, secretary general of the Association of Public Administration Students, expressed the opinion that the right to vote of over 20,000 students has been impeded.

[Begin recording] [Moreno] This is being done on the premise that only full-time students should vote in the elections for university rector. This does not include first-year, special, or graduating students, or a large number of night school students who are not enrolled for the 15 or more credits that qualify the full-time students to vote.

[Reporter] Some sectors feel that these changes were made to avoid electoral fraud, correct?

[Moreno] Yes, but those who are talking about fraud are precisely those who came to this university to tell us that democracy has arrived. Democracy has not come when over 20,000 students are denied the right to elect the rector of the University of Panama. [end recording]

Cali Cartel To Finance Radio, Newspaper

PA2906030291 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Colombian sources have reported that the Cali Cartel is in the process of financing a radio and newspaper in Panama as part of its plans to transfer its operations to this country in view of the counternarcotics struggle being carried out by President Gaviria's government.

The chiefs of the Cali mafia are experts in establishing companies that facilitate their illegal actions, mainly the shipping companies they use for transporting drugs to the consumer markets.

As they are increasing operations in Europe and Japan, the Cali Cartel leaders have progressively moved into Panama to take advantage not only of the canal, but of the vast maritime and aviation communications network that Panama offers, in addition to the facsimile and satellite communication channels that operate freely in the country.

They will also reportedly take advantage of our international financial center and our legislation on corporations. They have great interest in solid legal companies in Colombia and other countries. It is said they have a powerful influence on political and official groups, which they plan to extend into Panama.

Legislative Assembly Unable To Ratify MLAT

PA2906233391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Jun 91 p 1a

[Article by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] The ratification of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty [MLAT] during the current legislative period has been conditioned to a proposal initiated by the opposition Christian Democratic party [PDC] to discuss two projects which were recently vetoed by the president.

Once again, and with only two days remaining to conclude the National Assembly sessions, the PDC, with the support of the Revolutionary Democratic Party [PRD], refused to move forward with the second debate on the MLAT, and instead linked this discussion to the approval of the laws regulating public loans and the payment of the 13th-month bonus to all public employees.

A proposal to alter the discussion agenda to initiate the second round of debates on the MLAT was presented by Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] legislator Leo Gonzalez, which was rejected. Subsequently, a PDC proposal made by Carlos Arellano Lennox, altering the agenda to include discussion of the laws regulating public loans and the 13th-month bonus before the MLAT, was equally rejected.

The public loan bill proposal, which was vetoed several months ago by the president, establishes that the National Assembly would regulate matters related to the underwriting of public loans greater than $10 million requested by the executive branch from international credit institutions.

During the discussions aimed at altering the daily agenda, opposition and pro-government legislators proceeded to trade insults and mutual accusations.

The head of the PDC legislative faction, Carlos Arellano Lennox pointed out that pro-government legislators, by rejecting a debate on regulating loan underwriting, are denying the duty to put some type of safeguard against the president placing the country into debt.

Lennox further accused the pro-government legislators of backing the executive branch in exchange for "benefits."

He also repeated that his party is not opposed to the MLAT, but that its ratification is subject to the loans regulation proposal being discussed first.

On the other hand, Foreign Relations Commission President Olimpo Saez pointed out that the stance adopted by the PDC "lacks seriousness and is irresponsible" since there is an international agreement relating to the MLAT.

Saez also said that approval of the MLAT is important so that it may be understood, in the United States and Europe, that the government is taking serious steps to curb drug trafficking and money laundering.

He reminded the PDC legislators that the MLAT was an idea of PDC President Ricardo Arias Calderon when he was minister of government and justice.

The Molirena legislator stated that only drug traffickers and money launderers will feel any fear from the MLAT being approved. He also warned that the agreement signed on 11 April with the United States is necessary to give Panama a needed face-lift, due to its image being soiled for so many years by criminals.

According to PRD legislators, ratification of the MLAT is conditioned to an $84 million donation from the United States.

The MLAT has only been debated once, and with only a few days remaining until the close of Assembly sessions, some legislators are starting to believe that the bilateral agreement will not be ratified during this Assembly period.

Finally, the Assembly session ended with the discussion of a report from the Government and Constitutional Affairs Commission on objections to the bill which reinstates the payment of the 13th-month bonus, without "reaching any agreements."

Government Denies Banning Spanish Magazine

PA2806202991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2135 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Panama City, 26 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian Presidency denied today that circulation of the Spanish magazine CAMBIO 16 had been forbidden in this country, as a newspaper has alleged.

"The government led by President Guillermo Endara Galimany is respectful of the free expression of ideas through radio, television, newspapers, magazines, or any other social communications media," stated a communique issued by the Presidency's press secretariat.

"It is not true that the entry of the magazine CAMBIO 16 into the country has been hampered," the communique states in response to an article published today by Panamanian columnist Tomas Cabal in the newspaper HOY of the city of David.

Cabal attributed the alleged ban on circulation to the fact that the CAMBIO 16 issues of 20 and 27 May carried "articles about drug trafficking and money 'laundering' that implicated prominent local political figures."

Sources linked to CAMBIO 16 distributors in Panama indicated that the magazine was not distributed in the past few weeks for "commercial reasons," not because of governmental impediment.

Cuban Citizen Jumps Ship, Requests Asylum

PA2806154191 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 28 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by Orlando Mendieta]

[Text] Yesterday, Cuban citizen Roberto Rivas Martinez jumped into the Panama Canal from a ship in transit to request political asylum from Panamanian authorities.

Rivas Martinez, 44, a category two mechanic in Cuba, jumped into the canal from the Cuban registered ship "Rio Waywatego" as it passed through the Miraflores locks.

The Cuban citizen swam until he was rescued by Panama Canal Commission security members, who turned him over to local authorities.

The incident took place late yesterday. Rivas Martinez was taken to the Immigration Department of the Government and Justice Ministry and was told that he would stay there until today, when the authorities decide whether or not he will be granted political asylum.

Argentina

Foreign Minister Appeals for U.S. 'Benevolence'

PY2706185091 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido di Tella has appealed to the benevolence of the United States. In New York, he added that this benevolence will contribute to the recovery of the Argentine economy.

Di Tella emphasized that the relations between his government and the military sector are better than ever. Speaking of the economic situation, he pointed out that we Argentines have learned a very tough lesson, and we want to change and be a better country.

U.S. Extradition Request for Trafficker Granted

PY0107014291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Jun 91 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Argentina yesterday granted the extradition to the United States of Cuban-born drug-trafficker Fernando Jesus Pruna Bertot.

Bertot and his brother Andy Pruna, who produces ecological documentary films, are accused of leading one of the largest cocaine and marihuana trafficking networks in the US State of Florida and the rest of Latin America.

Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal yesterday authorized the extradition of Fruna Bertot, who has US citizenship, so that he may be tried on charges of smuggling over 3,000 kilos of cocainbe and 30,000 kilos of marihuana into the US between 1981 and 1986.

These operations were allegedly aided by his brother, who has shot several chapters of the television series The World of Andy Pruna in Argentina on the whales and sea lions of the Atlantic shores of Patagonia.

In separate developments yesterday, Border Guard and Buenos Aires provincial police officers yesterday began dismantling the drug trade communications network discovered seven days ago when San Isidro Federal Judge Alberto Piotti ordered a series of drug-related raids.

Finally, six drug dealers were arrested in a cocaine sweep in Mar del Plata ordered by Federal Judge Eduardo Pettigiani.

Malaysia's Mahathir Arrives in Buenos Aires

BK3006073091 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir has arrived in Argentina on the last leg of his three-nation tour of South America. His delegation arrived in Buenos Aires early this morning Malaysian time. An official welcoming ceremony will be held later today. A tight program has been drawn up for his four-day visit, which includes calling on President Carlos [Saul Menem] and the Senate president and meeting leading industrialists and businessmen. Malaysian businessmen accompanying the prime minister will hold discussions with their Argentinian counterparts.

Our correspondent Haji Abdul Rashid Mohamed says bilateral relations between Malaysia and Argentina will be strengthened further with the signing of agreements on economy, trade, science, and technology.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, who had earlier visited Chile and Brazil, will stop over at Fiji on his way back home.

'Major' Step for Bilateral Relations With Chile

PY2906130291 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0156 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Jun (NA)—On 26 June at San Martin Palace Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Carlos Olima and his Chilean counterpart Edmundo Vargas signed a document [words indistinct] of the bilateral commission, within the framework of the integration and cooperation process that the two countries are implementing.

This initial agreement, which is based upon the economic and political development of the two nations, provided for the preparation of several topics that will be ratified during a meeting that President Carlos Menem and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin will hold on 1 August in Argentina.

Olima said that "the document signed today involves a major change in the relations between our two countries," and he stressed "the significance of this major step for bilateral relations."

The "uninterrupted pursuit of criminals" is one of the main issues addressed in the agreement. This will allow Argentine and Chilean security forces to hunt for criminals beyond their borders.

As for the border problem, which has recently intensified at the Laguna del Desierto area, the deputy ministers declined to comment "because it is the subject of confidential negotiations." Nevertheless, the deputy ministers noted "the common will to peacefully settle these matters."

CNEA President Praises Multilateral Projects

PY2906163691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0023 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jun (TELAM)—On 28 June Manuel Mondino, president of the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) stressed the "importance" of Argentina's participation in Latin American programs involving nondestructive tests with Peru, Chile, and Brazil.

Mondino said that our country and the Peruvian National Council for Research are involved in a multilateral program on materials, Latin American specialized seminars, postgraduate courses, and publications on research carried out by the two countries' scientists.

Today, Mondino addressed the Recoleta Cultural Center on "The CNEA and its Relations With Latin America." The official said that 20 professionals from various Latin American countries have just graduated with degrees in physics and nuclear engineering from the Balseiro Institute in San Carlos de Bariloche.

Mondino recalled that he was a member of Balseiro's second graduating class, and he thanked all his great teachers at the institute, particularly Jorge Sabato and his team who had fundemental participation in my education.

Mondino was recently honored by the Organization of American States with the "Multinational Metallurgical Program" award. On 24 June Mondino received his award from President Carlos Menem.

Expenditure Letter of Intent Submitted to IMF

Economy Minister Comments

PY2906224291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2040 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jun (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo has announced that the letter of intent Argentina submitted to the IMF last night contains "a very austere program that contemplates social expenditures and supplies the provincial governments with ample funds."

The letter of intent serves as a petition for assistance. This assistance will be conditioned to meeting quarterly fiscal and monetary goals. The Argentine petition involves 780 million SDR (special drawing rights), which, at current prices, is equivalent to $1.028 billion. Our country applied for this standby [preceding word in English] for a period running from June 1991 to June 1992. This represents a change in the dates that were considered recently, becausee it had been said that this period would be retroactive to April 1991.

Cavallo said: "It is a realistic program that can be implemented perfectly and it paves the way for negotiating, by the end of this year, an extended facilities loan that will permit us to have funds to complete foreign debt negotiations with the creditor banks."

During a news conference held in the Economy Ministry Agreements Hall, the economy minister was accompanied by Central Bank President Roque Fernandez and Juan Llach, chief adviser for the Economy Minstry. Daniel Marx, financial representative in the United States, joined the news conference later, but remained in the background.

Cavallo pointed out that the letter of intent mentions a level of expenditures at 24 percent of the GDP, which is more than the 20.7 percent for the level of expenditures in 1990. He made it clear, however, that this difference "is more apparent than real" because last year, although there were fewer transfers to the provinces, most of the provinces' expenditures were covered "by debts with provincial banks and these were backed up with Central Bank rediscounts."

Cavallo added that there will be a "strong" primary surplus as a result of an important increase in the level of fiscal revenues, which will reach 22.82 percent of the GDP ($31.7 billion) this year. This surplus—before the payment of interest and guarantees—will reach 3.5 percent ($4.865 billion) and will be used for foreign payments and for accumulating $500 million in order "to prepare us for renegotiating the debt."

On the subject of expenditures, Cavallo pointed out that there will be increases in transfers to the provinces since shared expenditures "will reach their highest levels," and in social security since $10.5 billion will be paid to retirees and pensioners. Cavallo made it clear that, for this to be possible, "Congress will have to discuss the pending bills; otherwise, we will be unable to grant a 25-percent increase to the retirees and pensioners sector."

There is also a 15-percent increase in the salaries of public servants in comparison with those prevailing in 1990 and in the public enterprises deficit as a result of personnel layoffs.

The minister emphasized that the IMF accepted the position supported by Argentina of achieving a $4.2 billion surplus and not a $5.2 billion surplus, as the IMF wanted. Completely confirmed privatizations will yield $1.2 billion. Cavallo said: "At any rate, we will try to increase these figures and the difference will serve to settle the debt sooner. That money will not be spent."

Concerning the level of the dollar, utility rates, and salaries, Cavallo emphasized: "There are no compromises because we will enforce the convertibility law against indexation." Concerning the salaries issue, he made it clear that there could be (?increases) "if they are supported by increases in production or fiscal revenues."

In response to a question posed by the journalists, the minister said that the country's total GDP is $139 billion.

Concerning the provinces, the minister emphasized: "They will only have access to funds produced by shared taxes and the assistance fund handled by the Interior Ministry."

'Main Points' of Letter

PY2906231091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0137 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] The main points of the memorandum that Argentina submitted to the IMF are as follows:

—The fiscal policy will generate a $4.9 billion primary surplus, including $1.7 billion in capital inflow, up to June 1992.

—The nonfinancial public sector will go from a $2.3 billion deficit in 1990 to a $700 million surplus during the program's year.
—The combination of the nonfinancial public sector and the Central Bank's operational losses will go from a $3.2 billion deficit to a $200 million surplus.
—The value added tax installment will be increased from 16 to 18 percent and the difference will be earmarked for the social security stem.
—A real estate tax, similar to the one already imposed in the provinces, will be levied in the federal capital; as an alternative, foreign trade taxes will be increased.
—The income tax change proposed to Congress and the removal of bank debits and other taxes will permit the increase of fiscal revenues by 1.7 percent of the GDP per year.
—Future expenditures for low-income housing will be included in the budget law, while unpaid funds will be transferred to the consolidated official accounts fund.
—The level of federal government expenditures will be reduced by transferring program functions to the provinces; this will yield $500 million in savings.
—$200 million will be saved by rescheduling financing of Fonavi [National Housing Fund] housing programs and another $150 million will be saved by reducing expenditures in atomic energy and road building projects.
—The privatization of three railways will permit the dismissal of 15,000 employees in addition to the 72,000 employees that have already been dismissed.
—16,500 employees will be dismissed from YPF [Government Oil Deposits] and a total of 35,000 employees will be dismissed from public enterprises. This will yield $65 million in savings (after severance payments) this year.
—$910 million in recurrent savings will be secured after completion of the program.
—The National Bank will change its organization and geographic distribution and concentrate on the financial needs of the agricultural and livestock sector and of medium-size enterprises.
—The current accounts balance statement indicates a deficit of 2 percent of the GDP in 1991 due to a $1.8 billion decline in exports and a $2.4 billion increase in imports.
—Commercial banks will continue to be paid $60 million per month.
—During the period covered by the program, the sale of the Defense Ministry's petrochemical complex and the largest iron and steel enterprise, Somisa [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association], is foreseen.

La Rioja Governor Resigns; Blames Government

PY2806212491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) La Rioja—President Carlos Menem will decide in the next few hours whether to place the province of La Rioja (which he governed for three terms) under federal control. La Rioja Governor Agustin de la Vega (Justicialist) resigned yesterday morning "because I did not want to increase the unhappiness of the citizens" by implementing an economic adjustment programme which the national government demanded.

De la Vega staged a press conference at noon to announce that he was "not ready to order the dismissal of 10,000 public servants and the closure of the Bank of La Rioja." He stressed that throughout his 18-month administration "the party authorities gave me no support." Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa travelled to the province in the afternoon to sound out the situation in the provincial administration. Government officials suggested that Menem was waiting for a report by his minister to decide what to do.

While Menem is currently on an official visit to Bolivia, Vice- President Eduardo Duhalde—in charge of the Presidency—was asked whether he would sign the corresponding decree. "It's none of my business," Duhalde said, "But if Menem orders the federal intervention of La Rioja, I will have no problem in signing the decree too," he underlined.

Since Wednesday [26 June] night, when government sources disclosed a plan to place La Rioja under federal control, observers had been expecting federal intervention yesterday. However, it is now believed that things will have to wait until Menem returns from La Paz today.

Senator Eduardo Menem (La Rioja), the President's brother and commonly considered the main Justicialist leader in the province, yesterday expressed himself against the intervention. "It would not be a solution," he said, "because the situation can be solved through concrete financial assistance."

As soon as he arrived in La Rioja, Mera Figueroa told the press that "as from next Monday all May and June wages will be normalized." The minister stressed that "a solution will be sought for the serious economic problems in the province, but if we find no short-term solution, the province will be intervened."

Menem Rules Out Intervention

PY2606032091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0210 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Excerpt] La Rioja, 28 Jun (NA)—The La Rioja Province institutional crisis was overcome today after President Carlos Menem flatly ruled out the possibility of federal intervention in the province and after Luis Beder Herrera, vice president of the La Rioja legislature, was appointed acting governor.

In a session held this evening, the La Rioja legislature unanimously accepted Governor Agustin de la Vega's resignation and approved a decree for Herrera to take the oath of office as acting governor. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Justicialist Party Elections

Party Leaders Suffer 'Setbacks'

PY2806215491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Jun 91 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—One day before the deadline for submitting lists for congressional candidates in the Justicialist primaries in Buenos Aires, the rival sectors led by Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde and San Martin Mayor Carlos Brown suffered setbacks in their attempts to include popular leaders in their slates.

CGT [General Confederation of Labor]-Azopardo secretary-general Saul Ubaldini yesterday announced he would reject Brown's offer to lead his list of congressional candidates.

In statements to the press from Geneva, where he is participating in a labour meeting, Ubaldini stressed that "there is nothing more to discuss because the lists must be submitted tomorrow (today) and there is no time for an in-depth debate on electoral proposals."

In turn, Public Administration Secretary Gustavo Beliz yesterday refused to integrate the Lower House list representing the internal Peronist sector promoting the candidacy of Duhalde for Buenos Aires governor.

Beliz, whose inclusion in the list was allegedly requested by President Carlos Menem, considered that "I am more useful at the side of the President in this task we have begun to reform the state."

The state secretary nevertheless said he was ready to help Duhalde in his campaign.

"In the campaign we must be self-critical and not submissive to the national government," said Beliz.

Beliz justified his refusal to accept the candidacy arguing that "you first have to do what you plan well, and only then give way to your political ambitions and fight for electoral posts."

In related Justicialist news, Buenos Aires provincial Senator Mirta Rubini, who was recently selected by Brown as his running-mate, voiced confidence yesterday that her ticket "will defeat Duhalde and (his vice-gubernatorial choice, provincial Social Action Minister Rafael) Roma, because they are a mere continuation of Antonio Cafiero's administration and the people are tired of that."

Also she described herself as a firm supporter of President Menem and considered that the national government "is giving birth to a new Argentina which we must all build together." Rubini blasted Duhalde for lacking a provincial government programme. She anticipated the victory of her line "because we have a plan and we have ideas."

Meanwhile, controversial restaurant workers' leader Luis Barrionuevo—the former head of ANSSAL [National Health Insurance Administration] health administration whose sector launched Brown's candidacy—said yesterday that "Menem is surrounded by people who disguise reality for him in order to make it more palatable."

Candidates Selected

PY0107015291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] (NA-DYN)—After yet another postponement, the Justicialist Party Electoral Board closed the lists of candidates for the July 28 primaries for the national elections in the province of Buenos Aires.

The sector supporting Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde and San Martin Mayor Carlos Brown presented their lists for national and provincial deputies.

Observers stated that the only surprises in the lists were the absence of three-times ousted Moron Mayor Juan Carlos Rousselot from Brown's list (with which the leader of Menem Conduccion would get less support in that highly populated Greater Buenos Aires district) and the absence of Metal Workers' Union (UOM) deputy Secretary- General Luis Guerrero from Duhalde's list (where he would have provided the leader of the Federal League with the support of that powerful union).

The final list of candidates of both sectors for the national Lower House was thus completed as follows:

The alliance Federal League-FREPEBO [Buenos Aires Province Peronist Front] (with Duhalde and Buenos Aires Social Action Minister Rafael Roma as the gubernatorial ticket) runs with former Agriculture Secretary Felipe Sola in first place, followed by Deputy Lorenzo Pepe, Lomas de Zamora Mayor Hugo Toledo, SMATA [Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers] auto workers union leader Jose Rodriguez and current Vice-Governor Luis Maria Macaya.

Menem Conduccion (Brown-provincial Senator Mirta Rubini) presented a list led by Carlos Sanchez Toranzo, Angel Garcia, Roberto Rodriguez, Luis Bianciotto and Oscar Spinetta.

Apart from Duhalde's and Brown's lists, two other Justicialist leaders presented their candidacies at the party electoral board: Juan Ricardo Mussa and Vicente Damasco, who came up with their lists yesterday despite the fact that they had challenged the July 28 primaries.

Up to 3 PM—the new deadline—350 district lists had been sent to the electoral board, which means that almost 30,000 candidates will fight for the national, provincial and municipal posts. More than 1.5 million card-carrying Peronists will be eligible to vote in the primaries.

The final lists will be disclosed on Tuesday, after the deadline for challenges and corrections.

Army Presents New Light,'Multipurpose' Vehicle

PY3006032491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0008 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jun (NA)—At the conclusion of the "First Seminar on Research and Development," the Army Technical Directorate presented a new light vehicle described as "multipurpose" that can be used in difficult terrain and can be dropped by parachute.

The vehicle has been baptized "Vero." It can travel over difficult terrain covered with mud, snow, or water. It has been designed to operate in combat zones transporting artillery, command posts, patrols, reconnaissance groups, medical equipment, or troops (five men).

The main characteristics of the "Vero" are as follows: load capacity—500 kg, speed—95 km per hour, range—380 km, and capability to move in water-covered terrain up to 50 centimeters. These characteristics make the vehicle suitable for "fire support."

The "multipurpose" vehicle can also carry an 81-millimeter mortar, a 50-millimeter machine gun, a missile launcher, and a multiple rocket launcher.

The vehicle can also be used to pull a 120-millimeter mortar, a [word indistinct] caliber A-A [antiaircraft] cannon, generators, compressors, kitchens, and water.

The vehicle can be transported by helicopters or planes and can be dropped into combat areas through a [words indistinct] system.

Bolivia

Umopar Begins 'Important' Antidrug Operation

Operation in Santa Ana del Yacuma

PY2906152891 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] As of 28 June, Umopar [Mobile Units for Rural Areas] forces began carrying out an important operation in the town of Santa Ana del Yacuma. This operation is designed to restore order and capture the people who, through their illegal actions, disturb the town.

According to an Interior Ministry communique, the operation is supported by the local authorities.

At the Interior Ministry, the Interior Ministry social defense under secretary read a communique, explaining the importance of this antidrug operation. Given its importance, we will provide ample coverage on this operation.

As of 28 June, Umopar forces, supported by the task force of the Special Antinarcotics Force and the Bolivian Air Force, began carrying out an operation in the town of Santa Ana del Yacuma. This operation is designed to restore order and capture the people who, through their illegal actions, disturb the town of Santa Ana.

As a preliminary result of this operation, some people have been detained for investigative purposes. Their identities will be disclosed after their participation in the illegal drug trade is confirmed. Small airplanes, whose specifications and registration numbers will be reported later, have been seized.

The communique also supplies detailed information on the properties owned by drug trafficker Hugo Rivero Villavicencio that was confiscated during the operation.

[Begin recording of unidentified Interior Ministry social defense under secretary] We want to emphasize the attitude of the honorable municipal council of Santa Ana which, in keeping with the traditional honesty of the Santa Ana people, specifically supported this operation that is designed to restore and (?preserve) the effectiveness of the law and public morals.

Right here, during a friendly talk with the operation's commander, [Umopar Commander] Lieutenant Colonel Rogelio Vargas, the honorable mayor of Santa Ana grasped the importance of the action being carried out and offered his cooperation for the defense of legal principles. [end recording]

Discussing the same issue, Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena said that the people of Beni Department have demonstrated their dignity.

[Begin Rueda recording] I would like to tell you that this operation is being or has been carried out within the framework of a special authorization that the honorable municipal council of Santa Ana gave to Umopar on 28 June. It would be worthwhile for the press to delve into the meaning of this attitude.

The municipal council of Santa Ana del Yacuma authorizes Umopar to act against drug trafficking. What does this mean? It means that 99.99 percent of the population of Santa Ana del Yacuma are honest people who make a living from honest work. They are cattlemen, farmers, teachers. In a nutshell, they are people who make a living from honest work. And, through a resolution, the municipal council just expresses the profound indignation in that honorable town of Beni Department over the fact that just a few people, who actually are engaged in drug trafficking, are tarnishing such a beautiful city with such hard-working people as Santa Ana del Yacuma with such a sinister reputation of being involved in drug trafficking. [end recording]

Citizens Protest

PY2906162291 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Eddie Luis Franco relay from San Borja]

[Text] Civic leaders and people of the Beni Department held a demonstration tonight against the operations being carried out by Umopar [Mobil Units for Rural Areas] in the last few days in some towns of Beni Department and in Santa Ana del Yacuma today.

The civic leaders indicated that the people disagree with the methods being used during the operations. They said that they will not tolerate humiliations, and they criticized the government for allowing the U.S. intervention.

The Consultative Department of the Beni Civic Committee which met in San Borja, decided to send an open letter to the president of the Republic regarding the Umopar operations underway in Santa Ana del Yacuma. [Words indistinct] according to the representatives who are participating in the demonstration.

Some clashes reportedly occurred this afternoon between the people and Umopar members in Santa Ana del Yacuma; tear gas was used to break up the demonstration. There are also reports that eight people were arrested at the Santa Ana airport and that 20 were arrested in the city's main square. Houses are reportedly being raided in search of people involved in drug trafficking.

It has been unofficially learned by members of the Civic Committee of Santa Ana del Yacuma here in San Borja that the Umopar operations will last one week but there is no official information in this regard.

Station Reports Reaction

PY2906193091

[Editorial Report] La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 29 June devotes 25 minutes of the first hour of its two-hour newscast to a series of reports on and reaction to joint antidrug operations in Santa Ana, Beni Department, by the Bolivian Mobile Units for Rural Areas or Umopar and the U.S. DEA.

The program begins with a two-minute commentary on the need to determine "who controls the Special Antinarcotics Force." The announcer asks: "Is it the DEA or the national government? Because it seems that the government controls very little." The announcer then says that "in fact the special forces are becoming a military and police force at the service of the U.S. Embassy."

In a 3.5-minute report on the operations, an unidentified reporter charges that "U.S. DEA agents headed the Special Antinarcotics Force that abused and ignored the laws of our country in Santa Ana. Yesterday morning these forces took over the town and broke into and ransacked private homes, according to a report by Senator Guillermo Aponte."

In a recording, Senator Aponte then says: "I am upset and angry at the interior minister. I talked to him on 26 June. He said he would put an end to Umopar and DEA abuse and that he would create a special commission made up with senators and Interior Ministry representatives to stop these gringos who have invaded our country. This morning they invaded Santa Ana. I received calls from Santa Ana, Trinidad, and Riberalta. This has been an invasion that looked as if it were carried out by foreign occupation troops. They have come with Hercules planes. They invaded the town and stole television sets and motorcycles. They took 20 small planes and victimized Santa Ana. I do not know how much longer we can tolerate this. I wanted this important station that is heard all over the country to know about the attack, the invasion, humiliation, and vexation of Santa Ana. Pardon me for speaking with so much indignation, my friends." The announcer then adds that "all Bolivians feel the same indignation over the U.S. DEA aggression against Santa Ana." Another unidentified announcer then opines that "Umopar will soon operate under a U.S. flag and will speak English as its official language, and Spanish will be forbidden." The first announcer charges that "the control of the operations has been transferred to the U.S. Embassy" and that "the DEA obviously controls Umopar."

Another report on the incident characterizes the raids as "trampling on the dignity of the people, citizens, and government." The announcer cites other attacks on Trinidad and San Borja, and he says: "We will have to make simultaneous translations into English" because "these things do not happen in a sovereign state," adding "colonies are a thing of the past. What the U.S. Embassy and the DEA do goes beyond common sense."

The station notes that civic committee members in Trinidad have condemned the government "for selling the country to the United States for a few dollars in aid and for giving the Americans excessive power as if Bolivia were a Yankee colony." The report Miguel Rivera civic committee president as saying that Bolivians "should not permit four DEA gringos to do just as they please in Beni," and he exhorts the people "to mobilize against Umopar methods."

According to a 12-minute report from Santa Ana, the raids "caused widespread damage to homes and the moral integrity of homeowners was questioned."

The announcer reads points of an Interior Ministry communique saying that the operation "had the purpose of reestablishing order and arresting individuals who illegally disturb the peace." The announcer then asks the reporter in Santa Ana "if what the communique says is true." He reads the following excerpt said to be from the communique: "We want to stress the attitude of Santa Ana municipal council which faithful to its traditional honesty explicitly adhered to the operation to reestablish and preserve the law and public morals. The honorable mayor of Santa Ana, during a friendly conversation with operation commander Lieutenant Colonel Rogelio Vargas, understood the meaning of the operation and offered his cooperation to the defense of the law." The Santa Ana reporter then says that the communique is "false."

More reports on reactions to the same issue are included into the second hour.

President Paz Receives Argentina's Menem

Joint Declaration Signed

PY2906182891 La Paz Television Bolivians Network in Spanish 1603 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Joint Bolivian-Argentine declaration signed by President Jaime Paz Zamora and Argentine President Carlos Menem at Government House in La Paz on 28 June; read by announcer—live]

[Text] At the invitation of President Jaime Paz Zamora, Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem paid an official visit to Bolivia on 26, 27, and 28 June 1991.

The Argentine president was accompanied by a high-level delegation headed by Foreign Minister Guido di Tella. During the visit, President Menem held fruitful working meetings with President Paz Zamora, attended a congressional session in his honor, and received the golden keys of La Paz from the municipal mayor.

Imbued with firm determination to strengthen and diversify bilateral relations, the excellent level of which is reflected by the common objectives that were built by the devotion to democracy and the will for the integration of their peoples, the two presidents decided to sign the following joint declaration:

1. They reiterated their deep satisfaction over the on going progress in the area of easing of tension at a world-wide level, and over Latin America's positive contribution to this endeavor through the promotion of major peace, participation, and cooperation initiatives at a regional level, which reflect the deeply rooted democratic ideals of their peoples.
2. They agreed to emphasize the historical significance that the various integration processes that are under way in the region will have for Latin America's future, processes that will be decisive for socioeconomic development of their peoples.

In this regard, they (?reiterated) that those processes should be organized into integration modules that can permit harmonization with other subregional projects.

The two presidents committed their governments to coordinated efforts in support of regional integration programs, becuase they are convinced that Latin American unity is an essential precondition for an active, participative role in the international arena.

3. They stressed the importance of the creation of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and its contribution to the regional integration process, and they agreed to support its consolidation. In this regard, they reiterated their governments' will to examine—along with the other signatories of the Treaty of Asuncion—the methods that could allow Bolivia to join Mercosur in the future.
4. The presidents were satisfied to see that the integration program beween Argentina and Bolivia, which was set in motion by the presidential agreements signed on December 1989, has not only yielded concrete results but has made it possible for the two countries to identify new areas of integration and cooperation for the near future, in the fields of economy, energy, technology transfer, physical integration, and human resources.

The presidents, who considered that the energy integration process is one of the main elements of this integration program, decided to strengthen relations in this field, being aware of the fact that the Argentine market will continue to utilize Bolivian natural gas.

Within the framework of the energy integration protocol, which was signed in December 1989, the two presidents decided to call for a foreign ministers' meeting in Santa Cruz in August 1991. At this meeting, the ministers will study the new situation and, within that context, the conditions prevailing on the Argentine market, whose energy sector is currently undergoing a process of privatization and deregulation. The ministers will also study the possible impact of adjusted prices; the free and unrestricted availability of Bolivian natural gas on the Argentine market; the unrestricted availability of the resources accumulated in the Argentine-Bolivian integration and development fund; and the possibilities for financing construction of the Palmar Grande-Camiri and Desemboque-Bermejo highways.

As for the regional context, the two presidents reiterated that they are convinced that the particular Argentine and Bolivian situation in connection with natural energy resources makes it necessary for the two countries to create a close partnership, in order to take gradual but firm steps forward the creation of a regional energy community.

Within the context of such a partnership, the two presidents decided to promote the necessary studies for designing the most feasible formulas for promoting joint energy-supply offers and links with third countries, including the investment that will be required for such links.

5. The two presidents agreed to reiterated that they attach priority significance to the improvement of land communications between the two countries, as the most important factor to promoting physical integration, which is provided for in the agreements signed in 1989.

In addition, the two presidents decided that within a 90-day period, the appropriate officials of their respective governments will identify the stretches that still remain to be built along the highways between Bermejo and Tarija, and between Palmar Grande and Santa Cruz. Those officials will also define the studies that are necessary for paving the Humahuaca-La Quiaca-Villazon-Tupiza-Cotagaita-Posoti road, in order to submit a joint request for financial resources to friendly countries and international credit organizations like Fonplata [Financial Fund for the River Plate Basin] and the Inter-American Development Bank to complete construction of those projects as soon as possible.

6. The presidents were also satisfied with the conclusion of the technical studies and the start of the construction

work and the installation of equipment for storing in Bolivian territory the asphalt donated by the Argentine Government for the Tomatita-San Lorenzo road and the Yacuiba Airport projects. After the projects are finished, a program for their gradual delivery in accordance with the completion of the works will be carried out.

7. The two presidents reiterated the importance the two countries attach to the operation of the Paraguay and Parana waterways for their contribution not only as a basic project of integration of the River Plate basin but also as a valuable instrument to link Bolivia with the four Mercosur member countries.

8. They also emphasized the importance of starting as soon as possible studies for the multiple use of the upper basin of the Bermejo River and of the Grande River of Tarija. Therefore, the two presidents instructed their foreign ministries to submit within 90 days specific proposals on the necessary studies, financing, and the adequate institutional structure.

9. Regarding the multiple use of the Pilcomayo River basin, the two presidents expressed their will to conclude the agreements to allow the start of the project.

10. With the purpose of further enlarging the areas of cooperation and reaching agreements to encourage private activity, the two presidents decided to entrust their foreign ministries with studying more adequate instruments and mechanisms to encourage cooperation, and with integration in the area of mining. These studies will be analyzed during the upcoming meeting of the bilateral coordinating committee in order to make the appropriate recommendations.

11. They agreed on the need to promote the full implementation of the economic complementation agreement signed in December 1989. Within this framework instructions will be given to the permanent representives of the two countries in Latin American Integration Association to study the implementation of measures aimed at the elimination of the administrative and nontariff obstacles which make bilateral trade growth difficult.

12. Upon evaluating the progress of the integration program, the two presidents noted with satisfaction its effective contribution to the development of human resources as a decisive factor along with the economic issues. In this regard, they praised the projects of the two countries on immigration matters which, with the support of the International Organization for Migration and other organizations, will help to reach the common objectives defined by the two governments in their demographic policies. They also expressed their satisfaction over the progress toward solving the problem of nationals living illegally in the two countries.

13. The two presidents, noted with concern, the increase of the demand of narcotics and of the diversification of illegal drug traffic. They believe that this scourge is a serious threat to the two countries; therefore, they reiterated their firm will to carry out coordinated work to implement new strategies and effective measures to face this challenge with courage. They also emphasized the results obtained during the first meeting of the Bolivian-Argentine mixed commission on prevention of the illegal use of drugs and on suppression of the illegal traffic of narcotic and hallucinogenic drugs held in December 1990 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. President Menem expressed his decisive support for the policy of alternative development implemented by the Bolivian Government which will allow the definitive eradication of this scourge.

14. The two presidents expressed their will to implement effective and urgent measures to preserve the environment as a new way for the development and integration between the two countries. Therefore, they recommended that the third meeting of the coordinating committee prepare a bilateral agreement on this issue.

15. In order to give greater emphasis to border cooperation, the two presidents agreed to implement an overall program of joint tasks for which they instructed their foreign ministries to carry out the following actions:

a. Evaluate the progress of the agreements reached by the border committees.

b. Establish the institutional mechanisms to develop the program of border cooperation directly involving the participation of officials and institutions at the border regions of the two countries.

c. Promote and start actions to attract financial resources for programs and projects in border areas. The resources of the special development fund will be used mainly for this purpose.

On his own behalf and that of his delegation the president of the Argentine Republic expressed gratitude for the fraternal welcome given them by the Bolivian Government and people during his official visit.

Signed in La Paz on 28 June 1991 by Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora and Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem.

Paz Explains Purpose

PY2906225091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1620 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Speech by President Jaime Paz Zamora at a ceremony for the signing of a joint declaration with Argentina held at the Government Palace in La Paz—live]

[Excerpts] Dear president and friend Carlos Saul Menem, Mr. Vice President, Mr. Senate President, and Mr. President of the Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

The presence of Carlos Saul Menem, president of Argentina, in Bolivia confirms a long course of personal friendship and a long history of brotherhood between Bolivia and Argentina. In the past two years, these relations were strengthened by our people's willingness and by God's will, putting us at the head of our two countries.

Our personal relations began in Buenos Aires and continued in the beautiful land of La Rioja and Anillaco, where the president was born. We met again in the town of Lajas, Tarija, and then in Salta during Guemes

celebrations with the participation of Guemes horsemen. Today's meeting in La Paz is our fifth meeting. [passage omitted]

All our talks centered on the basic topic of integration. We have agreed that there is a definite disposition toward integration in Latin America today. The many integration movements are expressed in different ways, in different areas of the continent, and at different levels. Bolivia and Argentina are together in one of those movements, Argentina joined other countries in another movement, and Bolivia joined other brotherly countries in yet another movement.

We have concluded that there is a larger process of integration on the continent and that this process is, in turn, fed by other more regional integration processes. We do not see any contradiction between the larger process and the more regional processes.

This is why we said in the declaration—which I believe contributes to these processes—that Latin America is going through a modular integration process. This means that all regional processes are like modules that do not oppose but complement each other and that all processes cooperate in the larger process without losing their individual identities.

We have laid the foundations for what President Menem has repeatedly said during his visit and which has greatly pleased Bolivians. Menem has repeatedly said that he wants to see Bolivia in Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. Bolivians want to join Mercosur, but in coordination with the other regional processes in which our countries are also involved. This modular concept, my dear friend Carlos Saul, is a great step forward. The other items that are established in the declaration revolve around this concept.

I told Carlos Saul: This declaration is not perfect, but the search for perfection often prevents the realization of what is already good. The declaration is good, and as Carlos Saul said, it can be improved. All these arguments were discussed during our meetings with Carlos Saul.

Our two governments, beginning in 1989, began deep transformations in our economic, social, and political structures. This process is so dynamic that the Bolivia and Argentina that signed the 1989 protocol in Buenos Aires are no longer the same countries that have signed the La Paz Declaration in 1991. In less than two years, many things have changed a great deal in our countries. Our interest in improving on the 1989 protocol between Bolivia and Argentina is understandable. We wanted to adapt that protocol to the Bolivia of 1991, 1992, 1993, and onward. [passage omitted]

President Menem on Efforts

PY2906194091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1614 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Speech by Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem at ceremony held at the Government Palace in La Paz—live]

[Excerpts] His Excellency Mr. Jaime Paz Zamora, president of the Republic of Bolivia; Bolivian officials and representatives of the Bolivian Armed Forces; foreign ambassadors and diplomats: [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

Our common wishes will allow the installation of justice, because based on justice, we will be able to achieve peace. Our constant struggle and our countries' epic march toward Latin America integration will lead us to the universality of the future.

We have drafted and signed today an agreement that is an improved version, already adapted to the new reality in Bolivia and Argentina, of the declaration signed in 1989. Dear President Paz Zamora said that this agreement is not perfect, and he is right. This is why I have commented on relative perfection of things done by people. This agreement, however, is not final. Also, it is not definitive. We will continue to discuss it, because it offers us the possibility of doing so later on. I am certain that, based on these principles, we will improve even more what we are implementing now.

I believe that things will improve very much for our continent, for our countries, and for our peoples after our foreign ministers and their teams meet, and the Bolivian president, myself, and perhaps other Latin American presidents also meet. Last night, I said that we had to consider the people more than the geography. I have just repeated that in this unpretentious and candid speech.

I want to again thank the Bolivian Government and people, and I will continue to do so unceasingly, for the affection and love shown to me every time I come to Bolivia. Every time I have embraced a Bolivian—no matter how humble or important he or she may have been —I received affection and love. This is what makes me continue working to fulfill the wishes of all Bolivians, of all Argentines, of all Latin Americans: to definitively construct a great and prosperous nation where we can all be happier.

I again thank you and ask the Lord to bless us, to bless these wonderful people, to bless my people, and all the peoples in the world. May He give us strength to continue working for justice, liberty, and peace. Thank you very much. [applause]

Presidents on Integration

PY2806154891 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem has said that friendship is restricted by national interest, adding that there are binational and multilateral issues like the sale of gas, the antidrug struggle, and the idea that Bolivia may join the Common Market of the South—Mercosur. The Argentine president spoke on the banks of Lake Titicaca.

[Begin recording] [Menem, in progress] ...Argentina too. We will talk about that. Our foreign ministers are already talking about it. They are addressing the gas deal and other major issues about which everyone is concerned, like drug trafficking and projects that we can jointly implement with Bolivia. There are many subjects that can be addressed. The gas deal is obviously important, but there is one issue—drug trafficking—which all mankind is concerned. We believe that we are already waging World War III. This scourge has affected Bolivians, Argentines, and the entire community.

We would like to see Bolivia join the Mercosur soon. We could meet with the other presidents in the near future, especially with Brazilian President Fernando Collor, who is also a friend, so that we can expeditiously implement this Bolivian and Argentine wish, which is also my own wish.

[Unidentified reporter] Even though Bolivia is a member of the Andean Group?

[Menem] Look, that is irrelevant. Don't forget that we are heading for continental unity. These are major steps toward continental integration. Friendship is strong, but there are interests that go beyond the concept of friendship, because national interest involves the Bolivian and the Argentine peoples.Many things can be achieved through friendship, which can yield excellent results. Based on this friendship we can also harmonize our interests. [end recording

During a plane and boat tour of Lake Titicaca with the Argentine president, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora confirmed the remarks by Menem, adding that every desired projects will be implemented through friendship.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording, in progress] ...we welcome our dear friend Carlos Saul, a personal friend of mine and a friend of Bolivia. You have already listened to him and I that think he is right because historical and current events reflect common Bolivian and Argentine interests. [end recording]

During a congressional session in Menem's honor during the afternoon, Vice President Luis Ossio Sanjines, the Senate speaker, and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies conveyed their formal greetings to the visiting president, who said that this is the time to implement integration and unity between the two countries, promoting socioeconomic and commercial development.

[Begin Menem recording] The plan will promote economic and technological integration. We will thus promote exchange and joint actions by the business sectors of our two countries. Within this context, in our conversations with President Paz Zamora, we agreed to promote and expedite two areas in which our two countries are interested. This will effectively support the ties between Bolivia and Mercosur countries.

The first area deals with the construction of land transportation facilities—highway and railway—between Bolivia and Argentina. The second area deals with the development and urgent implementation of the Paraguay-Parana waterway. No other River Plate basin project could be more appropriate for uniting Bolivia and the four Mercosur countries. I trust that this honorable Congress will attach appropriate significance to these two projects. [end recording]

There were some unpleasant moments during this session in Menem's honor because pro-government and opposition lawmakers were conspicuous by their absence. Congress employees thus had to occupy the lawmakers' seats to masquerade a legal quorum. Unbelievable, right?

Argentine President Departs

PY2906031691 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem returned to his country this afternoon after carrying out important official activities in our country. President Jaime Paz Zamora accompanied him to the airport. The two presidents spoke with the national and international press. President Menem said, he arrived with great hopes and he is returning satisfied with the results of his visit to Bolivia.

[Begin Menem recording] All of you have the joint declaration we signed this morning. You can make comments on it. I believe this was a very important step in Bolivian-Argentine relations. Agreements are being reached in Latin America and the world. We are modernizing our countries and our economies. We are trying to make progress. In the social field, we are indebted to our people. We are trying to create wealth to pay that debt. [end recording]

Menem reiterated the binational aim to create an enterprise or institute to sell the natural gas of both countries to third countries such as Chile and Brazil.

Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora said a South American integration zone will be built with Argentina with the participation of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the Andean Pact.

[Begin Paz recording] God willing, we will build with Argentina a South American integration zone with Mercosur and the Andean Pact. This is our objective. The joint declaration [words indistinct] of the different integration process in South America. [end recording]

Brazil

Collor Requests Aid For Environment Program

PY2806001391 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor wants countries from the Group of Seven to provide resources that will be used to safeguard the tropical rain forest, as part of a foreign debt conversion project.

Collor made this request in a letter to the chiefs of state of the Group of Seven. In his letter, Collor reminds the chiefs of state of the richest countries in the world that the Brazilian Government has already drafted a pilot program which is being discussed in meetings with representatives from the EC's commissions and the World Bank.

This pilot program includes structural conservation projects, the protection of basic ecosystems, the handling of renewable natural resources, the improvement of depredated areas, environment education, and surveillance and control programs.

President Collor ends his letter by stating that he hopes the subject will be discussed during the upcoming meeting in London and that Brazil will be granted financial support to implement the environment conservation projects foreseen in this pilot program.

Moreover, President Fernando Collor praised the work carried out by Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek. The president attributed to the foreign minister the success of his recent trips abroad. This was reported by Presidential Spokesman Claudio Humberto, who mentioned the meetings that President Collor recently held with the Soviet and U.S. presidents.

Debt Conversion Plan Includes Ecology Projects

PY2806234791 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Jun 91 p 7 Section 1

[Text] Brazil will convert $100 million of its foreign debt into programs to preserve the environment. The transfer of those resources to environmental projects will be made through a patrimonial fund that will be created for that purpose. The resources will be transferred at a discount but the government has not yet determined the percentage.

Ministers began discussing the debt conversion plan yesterday during a cabinet meeting at Planalto Palace.

Projects involving infrastructure will also be considered in the debt conversion plan. The government has already made the decision although it has not yet been made public.

The government will accept debt conversion projects in any infrastructure project; however, it will give absolute priority to projects to expand the electricity generating capacity and projects directed at cleaning up the finances of state enterprises that are to be privatized.

Preliminary government studies show that if the program works, $15 billion could be converted at its most optimistic level over the three and a half years that remain in President Fernando Collor's mandate. A pessimistic assessment puts that estimate at $3 billion.

Government technical studies indicate that conversion projects will favor the country if they do not generate inflation, at least in theory. The program operates as follows: Should the government want to conclude the Tucurui 2 aluminum project in Para State, for example, foreign investors interested in participating in the program would first buy into the foreign debt at a discount on the secondary market and then present their notes at the Central Bank. The Central Bank will then give the investors money that must be invested in the chosen project. The money is then rendered harmless to inflation (it cannot be adjusted for inflation) by the Central Bank administration which controls the increase in market liquidity.

Studies are not finished yet but the government has already received inquiries from foreign investors interested in both the Tucurui 2 project and also in cleaning up the finances of the public steel industry which has been defined as ready for privatization.

The government estimates that if negotiations with the IMF and private banks succeed, interest for these projects will increase and conversion projects will become so attractive that the optimistic projection of $15 billion will become viable.

This amount represents more than 10 percent of the Brazilian foreign debt which is calculated at approximately $114 billion.

Collor Negotiates Debt of States, Municipalities

PY2806000591 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] Clovis Rossi [not further identified] has stated that the government economic team has left the negotiation of the internal and foreign debts of the states and municipalities exclusively in the hands of President Fernando Collor. This gives the president a political negotiating weapon that is estimated within government circles at $50 billion. Because of the difficulty of obtaining a stable basis of support in Congress, the government intends to call on the state governors to support it during its negotiations with Congress.

Today, the government will freeze the bank accounts of the state enterprises, states, and municipalities that have not paid 25 percent of the overdue interest on their foreign debts.

Stricter Control Established on Paraguayan Border

PY2806174491 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] A few minutes ago, Federal Police Director Romeu Tuma inaugurated a new control barrier at the Friendship Bridge on the Paraguay-Brazilian border in Foz do Yguazu, Parana State.

The new control barrier is at the entrance to the bridge and it is intended to help federal policemen block the access of stolen cars, and help to enforce stricter control measures. Federal policemen will operate the barrier whenever they see a suspect car. A Federal Police office has also been built at the bridge. A policemen will always be on duty at this police office, which also includes a small cell.

[Begin Tuma recording] The objective of this barrier is to more strictly control drug trafficking, car thefts, and arms trafficking. [end recording]

Cuban-Trained Guerrillas Reportedly Returning

PY2806174091 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] Federal Police Director Romeu Tuma has reported that leaders of the Landless Workers National Movement are taking guerrillas training courses in Cuba aimed at improving methods of invading ranches. He reported this yesterday to the Congressional Investigating Committee that investigates violence in the country.

Tuma said that he has evidence that guerrillas are returning to the country. He delivered correspondence seized in Maraba (Para State), which led to the imprisonment of seven people on 15 June. Communist Party of Brazil Deputy Socorro Gomes said that the material was forged.

Minister Denies Resigning Political Position

PY2906030291 Brasilia Voz do Brazil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho has denied giving his resignation from the position of government political coordinator to President Fernando Collor. Minister Passarinho said he had just expressed his disappointment over the government's defeat in the voting on Provisional Measure 296, which readjusted salaries for civilian and military public servants in some job classifications.

World Bank Grants Loans for Petrobras, Education

PY2806000891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The World Bank has approved two loans for Brazil totaling $505 million. One of them will be alloted to Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] and the other to the Sao Paulo education sector. This is the first time the World Bank has granted a loan to Petrobras.

Central Bank Closes Two Rio Brokerage Firms

PY0107021891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Report by Beto Almeida]

[Text] A Central Bank investigation has determined that the Divalores and Rumo brokerage firms have committed fraud. The Central Bank assumes that the large volume of transactions made by the two companies may be tied to the laundering of illegal money obtained from drug trafficking, kidnappings, and bank robberies. The Central Bank yesterday submitted the evidence it has gathered during the one-year investigation to the Justice Ministry. Based on the conclusions of the investigation, the Central Bank on 25 June ordered the closure of the two brokerage firms. The case will be investigated further by the federal police.

According to the Central Bank investigation, the two companies carried out fictitious transactions, evaded taxes, and illegally remitted resources abroad. The Central Bank investigation states that this may only be the tip of the iceberg in terms of illegal operations in the financial market. It also reports that it is already investigating three other Rio de Janeiro brokerage firms which may be involved in fraud cases.

Indian Affairs Expert Appointed Funai President

PY0107024891 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Jun 91 p 4

[Summary] Sidney Ferreira Possuelo was appointed yesterday as president of the National Indian Foundation, Funai. He replaces Cantidio Guimareas, who was dismissed last week. Ferreira is an Indian affairs expert who has worked with Indians for 26 years. He previously held the position of Isolated Indians Coordinator with Funai.

* Export Program May Be Implemented in July

91SM0382C Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 14 Jun 91 p 3

[Article by Rio correspondent Livia Ferrari]

[Text] The administration expects that it will implement the Export Financing Program known as Proex as early as July. Proex, which includes both financing of interest rates equalization (Resolution 509) and direct financing (Resolution 68) will be operated this year, basically, by using funds from returns on loans made in the past under

the old Finex program [Financing and Export Fund] that was abolished last October. That means that only $200 million is available so far—a rather modest sum in light of a demand informally estimated at about $800 million, the figure the export sector has given the government.

Director of the Department of Foreign Trade (Decex) Heloisa Camargos, who met with exporters yesterday at the headquarters of the Association of Brazilian Exporters (AEB) for the first time since she took over her new position, admitted that Proex is going to operate this year under very tight funding restraints and finance only a short list of products, limited to capital goods.

The regulations for the program are now being drafted, which means officials are determining the list of eligible products, the interest rates, and the length of payment terms. Banco do Brasil will act as agent for the Treasury in determining eligibility of the financing plans, which will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

Camargos also said that the Finance Committee of the Chamber of Deputies approved yesterday the executive branch's bill No. 822, which provides for exemptions from the IPI [Tax on Manufactured Products] and maintenance of the tax credit on imports of inputs intended for drawback transactions. The bill will now be sent to the floor of the Chamber, and then to the Senate. The Decex director also announced that the executive branch plans to submit a bill in Congress to refine and streamline the antidumping law.

Despite the good news about the IPI tax exemption on drawback operations, exporters are still demanding complete and final elimination of the ICM [Merchandise Distribution Tax] on exports of semiprocessed goods. But, in Camargos's opinion, this is an issue that the export sector will have to take up with the state governments, within the National Council for Finance Policy (Confaz) because, as she explained, the government's room to negotiate is restricted by the Constitution itself.

The Decex director also announced that by next week at the latest changes will be made in the administrative rules applying to imports of parts, pieces, and components to make them more flexible. Under the new rules contained in Decex Directive No. 8 of 14 May 1991, the issuance of "generic licenses" or "letters of authorization" for imports of those goods was abolished. Those documents, however, were replaced by a requirement to present the import licenses when the goods are cleared through customs, and exporters have been complaining about this. According to Mauricio de Souza Assis, Technical Coordinator of Commercial Exchange, the change now being studied would mean that the import license could be presented as late as 30 days after the import declaration (DI) is registered with the federal revenue department.

Decex also plans to streamline the procedures for importing used machinery and equipment. The government's proposal, already sent to the Committee on Business Competitiveness, is to abolish the requirement for proving that no domestic product exists. Under the same plan, the importer of the used capital goods would have to keep them on the list of his fixed assets for at least five years.